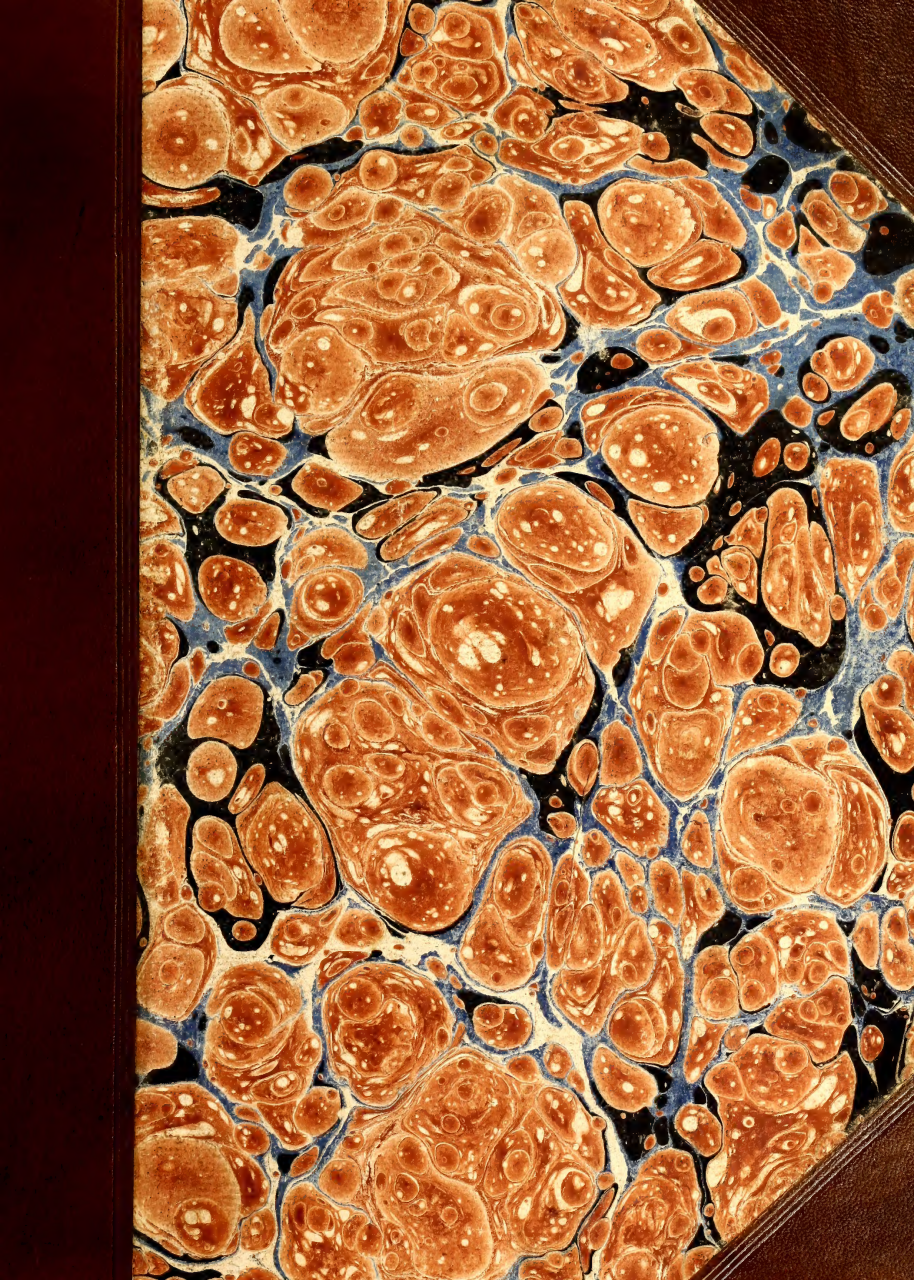

[e]

£500

North East view of SELBORNE, *from the* SHORT LYTHE.

Published Nov.r 1. 1788, as the Act directs, by B. White & Son.

THE

NATURAL HISTORY

AND

ANTIQUITIES

OF

SELBORNE,

IN THE

COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON:

WITH

ENGRAVINGS, AND AN APPENDIX.

— — — " ego Apis Matinæ
" More modoque
" Grata carpentis — — — per laborem
" Plurimum," — — — — — HOR.

" Omnia benè deſcribere, quæ in hoc mundo, a Deo facta, aut Naturæ creatæ viribus
" elaborata fuerunt, opus eſt non unius hominis, nec unius ævi. Hinc *Faunæ & Floræ*
" utiliſſimæ; hinc *Monographi* præſtantiſſimi." SCOPOLI ANN. HIST. NAT.

LONDON:

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M,DCC,LXXXIX.

1789

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of the following Letters takes the liberty, with all proper deference, of laying before the public his idea of *parochial hiſtory*, which, he thinks, ought to conſiſt of natural productions and occurrences as well as antiquities. He is alſo of opinion that if ſtationary men would pay ſome attention to the diſtricts on which they reſide, and would publiſh their thoughts reſpecting the objects that ſurround them, from ſuch materials might be drawn the moſt complete county-hiſtories, which are ſtill wanting in ſeveral parts of this kingdom, and in particular in the county of *Southampton*.

And here he ſeizes the firſt opportunity, though a late one, of returning his moſt grateful acknowledgments to the reverend the Preſident and the reverend and worthy the Fellows of *Magdalen College* in the univerſity of *Oxford*, for their liberal behaviour in permitting their archives to be ſearched by a member of their own ſociety, ſo far as the

evidences therein contained might reſpect the pariſh and priory of *Selborne*. To that gentleman alſo, and his aſſiſtant, whoſe labours and attention could only be equalled by the very kind manner in which they were beſtowed, many and great obligations are alſo due.

Of the authenticity of the documents above-mentioned there can be no doubt, ſince they conſiſt of the identical deeds and records that were removed to the College from the Priory at the time of it's diſſolution; and, being carefully copied on the ſpot, may be depended on as genuine; and, never having been made public before, may gratify the curioſity of the antiquary, as well as eſtabliſh the credit of the hiſtory.

If the writer ſhould at all appear to have induced any of his readers to pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation, too frequently overlooked as common occurrences; or if he ſhould by any means, through his reſearches, have lent an helping hand towards the enlargement of the boundaries of hiſtorical and topographical knowledge; or if he ſhould have thrown ſome ſmall light upon ancient cuſtoms and manners, and eſpecially on thoſe that were monaſtic; his purpoſe will be fully anſwered. But if he ſhould not have been ſucceſsful in any of theſe his intentions,

tions, yet there remains this conſolation behind—that theſe his purſuits, by keeping the body and mind employed, have, under Providence, contributed to much health and cheerfulneſs of ſpirits, even to old age: and, what ſtill adds to his happineſs, have led him to the knowledge of a circle of gentlemen whoſe intelligent communications, as they have afforded him much pleaſing information, ſo, could he flatter himſelf with a continuation of them, would they ever be deemed a matter of ſingular ſatisfaction and improvement.

Selborne,
January 1ſt, 1788.

GIL. WHITE.

THE

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

SELBORNE.

— where the Hermit hangs his straw-clad cell.

Τρηχει, αλλ' αγαθη κυροτροφος. ετι εγωγε
Ης γαιης δυναμαι γλυκερωτερου αλλο ιδεσθαι. Homeri Odyff.

Tota denique noftra illa aſpera, & montuoſa, & fidelis, & ſimplex, & fautrix ſuorum regio.
Cicero Orat. pro Cn. Plancio.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF SELBORNE.

LETTER I.

TO THOMAS PENNANT, ESQUIRE.

THE parish of SELBORNE lies in the extreme eastern corner of the county of *Hampshire*, bordering on the county of *Sussex*, and not far from the county of *Surrey*; is about fifty miles south-west of *London*, in latitude 51, and near midway between the towns of *Alton* and *Petersfield*. Being very large and extensive it abuts on twelve parishes, two of which are in *Sussex*, viz. *Trotton* and *Rogate*. If you begin from the south and proceed westward the adjacent parishes are *Emshot*, *Newton Valence*, *Faringdon*, *Harteley Mauduit*, *Great Ward le ham*, *Kingsley*, *Hedleigh*, *Bramshot*, *Trotton*, *Rogate*, *Lysse*, and *Greatham*. The soils of this district are almost as various and diversified as the views and aspects. The high part to the south-west consists of a vast hill of chalk, rising three

hundred feet above the village; and is divided into a ſheep down, the high wood, and a long hanging wood called *The Hanger*. The covert of this eminence is altogether beech, the moſt lovely of all foreſt trees, whether we conſider it's ſmooth rind or bark, it's gloſſy foliage, or graceful pendulous boughs. The down, or ſheep-walk, is a pleaſing park-like ſpot, of about one mile by half that ſpace, jutting out on the verge of the hill-country, where it begins to break down into the plains, and commanding a very engaging view, being an aſſemblage of hill, dale, wood-lands, heath, and water. The proſpect is bounded to the ſouth-eaſt and eaſt by the vaſt range of mountains called *The Suſſex Downs*, by *Guild-down* near *Guildford*, and by the *Downs* round *Dorking*, and *Ryegate* in *Surrey*, to the north-eaſt, which altogether, with the country beyond *Alton* and *Farnham*, form a noble and extenſive outline.

At the foot of this hill, one ſtage or ſtep from the uplands, lies the village, which conſiſts of one ſingle ſtraggling ſtreet, three quarters of a mile in length, in a ſheltered vale, and running parallel with *The Hanger*. The houſes are divided from the hill by a vein of ſtiff clay (good wheat-land), yet ſtand on a rock of white ſtone, little in appearance removed from chalk; but ſeems ſo far from being calcarious, that it endures extreme heat. Yet that the freeſtone ſtill preſerves ſomewhat that is analogous to chalk, is plain from the beeches which deſcend as low as thoſe rocks extend, and no farther, and thrive as well on them, where the ground is ſteep, as on the chalks.

The cart-way of the village divides, in a remarkable manner, two very incongruous ſoils. To the ſouth-weſt is a rank clay, that requires the labour of years to render it mellow; while the gardens to the north-eaſt, and ſmall encloſures behind, conſiſt of a warm

warm, forward, crumbling mould, called *black malm*, which ſeems highly ſaturated with vegetable and animal manure; and theſe may perhaps have been the original ſite of the town; while the woods and coverts might extend down to the oppoſite bank.

At each end of the village, which runs from ſouth-eaſt to north-weſt, ariſes a ſmall rivulet: that at the north-weſt end frequently fails; but the other is a fine perennial ſpring, little influenced by drought or wet ſeaſons, called *Well-head*[a]. This breaks out of ſome high grounds joining to *Nore Hill*, a noble chalk promontory, remarkable for ſending forth two ſtreams into two different ſeas. The one to the ſouth becomes a branch of the *Arun*, running to *Arundel*, and ſo falling into the *Britiſh* channel: the other to the north. The *Selborne* ſtream makes one branch of the *Wey*; and, meeting the *Black-down* ſtream at *Hedleigh*, and the *Alton* and *Farnham* ſtream at *Tilford-bridge*, ſwells into a conſiderable river, navigable at *Godalming*; from whence it paſſes to *Guildford*, and ſo into the *Thames* at *Weybridge*; and thus at the *Nore* into the *German* ocean.

Our wells, at an average, run to about ſixty-three feet, and when ſunk to that depth ſeldom fail; but produce a fine limpid water, ſoft to the taſte, and much commended by thoſe who drink the pure element, but which does not lather well with ſoap.

To the north-weſt, north and eaſt of the village, is a range of fair encloſures, conſiſting of what is called a *white malm*, a ſort of

[a] This ſpring produced, *September* 14, 1781, after a ſevere hot ſummer, and a preceding dry ſpring and winter, nine gallons of water in a minute, which is five hundred and forty in an hour, and twelve thouſand nine hundred and ſixty, or two hundred and ſixteen hogſheads, in twenty-four hours, or one natural day. At this time many of the wells failed, and all the ponds in the vales were dry.

rotten or rubble ſtone, which, when turned up to the froſt and rain, moulders to pieces, and becomes manure to itſelf[b].

Still on to the north-eaſt, and a ſtep lower, is a kind of white land, neither chalk nor clay, neither fit for paſture nor for the plough, yet kindly for hops, which root deep into the freeſtone, and have their poles and wood for charcoal growing juſt at hand. This white ſoil produces the brighteſt hops.

As the pariſh ſtill inclines down towards *Wolmer-foreſt*, at the juncture of the clays and ſand the ſoil becomes a wet, ſandy loam, remarkable for timber, and infamous for roads. The oaks of *Temple* and *Blackmoor* ſtand high in the eſtimation of purveyors, and have furniſhed much naval timber; while the trees on the freeſtone grow large, but are what workmen call *ſhakey*, and ſo brittle as often to fall to pieces in ſawing. Beyond the ſandy loam the ſoil becomes an hungry lean ſand, till it mingles with the foreſt; and will produce little without the aſſiſtance of lime and turnips.

LETTER II.

TO THE SAME.

In the court of *Norton* farm houſe, a manor farm to the north-weſt of the village, on the white malms, ſtood within theſe twenty years a *broad-leaved elm*, or *wych hazel*, *ulmus folio latiſſimo ſcabro* of *Ray*, which, though it had loſt a conſiderable leading

[b] This ſoil produces good wheat and clover.

bough

bough in the great ſtorm in the year 1703, equal to a moderate tree, yet, when felled, contained eight loads of timber; and, being too bulky for a carriage, was ſawn off at ſeven feet above the butt, where it meaſured near eight feet in the diameter. This elm I mention to ſhew to what a bulk *planted elms* may attain; as this tree muſt certainly have been ſuch from it's ſituation.

In the centre of the village, and near the church, is a ſquare piece of ground ſurrounded by houſes, and vulgarly called *The Pleſtor* [c]. In the midſt of this ſpot ſtood, in old times, a vaſt oak, with a ſhort ſquat body, and huge horizontal arms extending almoſt to the extremity of the area. This venerable tree, ſurrounded with ſtone ſteps, and ſeats above them, was the delight of old and young, and a place of much reſort in ſummer evenings; where the former ſat in grave debate, while the latter frolicked and danced before them. Long might it have ſtood, had not the amazing tempeſt in 1703 overturned it at once, to the infinite regret of the inhabitants, and the vicar, who beſtowed ſeveral pounds in ſetting it in it's place again: but all his care could not avail; the tree ſprouted for a time, then withered and died. This oak I mention to ſhew to what a bulk *planted oaks* alſo may arrive: and planted this tree muſt certainly have been, as will appear from what will be ſaid farther concerning this area, when we enter on the antiquities of *Selborne*.

On the *Blackmoor* eſtate there is a ſmall wood called *Loſel*'s, of a few acres, that was lately furniſhed with a ſet of oaks of a peculiar growth and great value; they were tall and taper like firs, but ſtanding near together had very ſmall heads, only a little bruſh without any large limbs. About twenty years ago the

[c] Vide the plate in the antiquities.

bridge

bridge at the *Toy*, near *Hampton Court*, being much decayed, ſome trees were wanted for the repairs that were fifty feet long without bough, and would meaſure twelve inches diameter at the little end. Twenty ſuch trees did a purveyor find in this little wood, with this advantage, that many of them anſwered the deſcription at ſixty feet. Theſe trees were ſold for twenty pounds apiece.

In the centre of this grove there ſtood an oak, which, though ſhapely and tall on the whole, bulged out into a large excreſcence about the middle of the ſtem. On this a pair of ravens had fixed their reſidence for ſuch a ſeries of years, that the oak was diſtinguiſhed by the title of *The Raven-tree*. Many were the attempts of the neighbouring youths to get at this *eyry:* the difficulty whetted their inclinations, and each was ambitious of ſurmounting the arduous taſk. But, when they arrived at the ſwelling, it jutted out ſo in their way, and was ſo far beyond their graſp, that the moſt daring lads were awed, and acknowledged the undertaking to be too hazardous. So the ravens built on, neſt upon neſt, in perfect ſecurity, till the fatal day arrived in which the wood was to be levelled. It was in the month of *February*, when thoſe birds uſually ſit. The ſaw was applied to the butt, the wedges were inſerted into the opening, the woods echoed to the heavy blows of the beetle or mallet, the tree nodded to it's fall; but ſtill the dam ſat on. At laſt, when it gave way, the bird was flung from her neſt; and, though her parental affection deſerved a better fate, was whipped down by the twigs, which brought her dead to the ground.

LETTER

MYTILUS, Crista Galli.

Published 1 Nov. 1788, as the Act directs, by B. White & Son.

LETTER III.

TO THE SAME.

THE foſſil-ſhells of this diſtrict, and ſorts of ſtone, ſuch as have fallen within my obſervation, muſt not be paſſed over in ſilence. And firſt I muſt mention, as a great curioſity, a ſpecimen that was plowed up in the chalky fields, near the ſide of the *Down*, and given to me for the ſingularity of it's appearance, which, to an incurious eye, ſeems like a petrified fiſh of about four inches long, the cardo paſſing for an head and mouth. It is in reality a *bivalve* of the *Linnæan Genus* of *Mytilus*, and the ſpecies of *Criſta Galli*; called by *Liſter*, *Raſtellum*; by *Rumphius*, *Oſtreum plicatum minus*; by *D'Argenville*, *Auris Porci*, ſ. *Criſta Galli*; and by thoſe who make collections *cock's comb*. Though I applied to ſeveral ſuch in London, I never could meet with an entire ſpecimen; nor could I ever find in books any engraving from a perfect one. In the ſuperb *muſeum* at *Leiceſter-houſe* permiſſion was given me to examine for this article; and, though I was diſappointed as to the foſſil, I was highly gratified with the ſight of ſeveral of the ſhells themſelves in high preſervation. This bivalve is only known to inhabit the *Indian* ocean, where it fixes itſelf to a *zoophyte*, known by the name *Gorgonia*. The curious foldings of the future the one into the other, the alternate flutings or grooves, and the curved form of my ſpecimen being much eaſier expreſſed by the pencil than by words, I have cauſed it to be drawn and engraved.

Cornua Ammonis are very common about this village. As we were cutting an inclining path up *The Hanger*, the labourers found them

them frequently on that ſteep, juſt under the ſoil, in the chalk, and of a conſiderable ſize. In the lane above *Well-head*, in the way to *Emſhot*, they abound in the bank in a darkiſh ſort of marl; and are uſually very ſmall and ſoft: but in *Clay's Pond*, a little farther on, at the end of the pit, where the ſoil is dug out for manure, I have occaſionally obſerved them of large dimenſions, perhaps fourteen or ſixteen inches in diameter. But as theſe did not conſiſt of firm ſtone, but were formed of a kind of *terra lapidoſa*, or hardened clay, as ſoon as they were expoſed to the rains and froſt they mouldered away. Theſe ſeemed as if they were a very recent production. In the chalk-pit, at the north-weſt end of *The Hanger*, large *nautili* are ſometimes obſerved.

In the very thickeſt ſtrata of our freeſtone, and at conſiderable depths, well-diggers often find large *ſcallops* or *pectines*, having both ſhells deeply ſtriated, and ridged and furrowed alternately. They are highly impregnated with, if not wholly compoſed of, the ſtone of the quarry.

LETTER IV.

TO THE SAME.

As in a former letter the *freeſtone* of this place has been only mentioned incidentally, I ſhall here become more particular.

This ſtone is in great requeſt for hearth-ſtones, and the beds of ovens: and in lining of lime-kilns it turns to good account; for the workmen uſe ſandy loam inſtead of mortar; the ſand of which fluxes, [d] and runs by the intenſe heat, and ſo caſes over the

[d] There may probably be alſo in the chalk itſelf that is burnt for lime a proportion of ſand: for few chalks are ſo pure as to have none.

whole

whole face of the kiln with a ſtrong vitrified coat like glaſs, that it is well preſerved from injuries of weather, and endures thirty or forty years. When chiſeled ſmooth, it makes elegant fronts for houſes, equal in colour and grain to the *Bath* ſtone; and ſuperior in one reſpect, that, when ſeaſoned, it does not ſcale. Decent chimney-pieces are worked from it of much cloſer and finer grain than *Portland*; and rooms are floored with it; but it proves rather too ſoft for this purpoſe. It is a freeſtone, cutting in all directions; yet has ſomething of a grain parallel with the horizon, and therefore ſhould not be *ſurbedded*, but laid in the ſame poſition that it grows in the quarry [e]. On the ground abroad this fireſtone will not ſucceed for pavements, becauſe, probably ſome degree of ſaltneſs prevailing within it, the rain tears the ſlabs to pieces [f]. Though this ſtone is too hard to be acted on by vinegar; yet both the white part, and even the *blue rag*, ferments ſtrongly in mineral acids. Though the white ſtone will not bear wet, yet in every quarry at intervals there are thin ſtrata of *blue rag*, which reſiſt rain and froſt; and are excellent for pitching of ſtables, paths and courts, and for building of dry walls againſt banks; a valuable ſpecies of fencing, much in uſe in this village, and for mending of roads. This *rag* is rugged and ſtubborn, and will not hew to a ſmooth face; but is very durable: yet, as theſe ſtrata are ſhallow and lie deep, large quantities cannot be procured but at conſiderable expenſe. Among the *blue rags* turn up ſome blocks tinged

[e] To *furbed* ſtone is to ſet it edgewiſe, contrary to the poſture it had in the quarry, ſays Dr. *Plot. Oxfordſh.* p. 77. But *furbedding* does not ſucceed in our dry walls; neither do we uſe it ſo in ovens, though he ſays it is beſt for *Teynton* ſtone.

[f] "Fireſtone is full of ſalts, and has no ſulphur: muſt be cloſe grained, and have no "interſtices. Nothing ſupports fire like ſalts; ſaltſtone periſhes expoſed to wet and "froſt." *Plot's Staff.* p. 152.

with a ſtain of *yellow* or *ruſt colour*, which ſeem to be nearly as laſting as the blue; and every now and then balls of a friable ſubſtance, like ruſt of iron, called *ruſt balls*.

In *Wolmer Foreſt* I ſee but one ſort of ſtone, called by the workmen *ſand*, or *foreſt-ſtone*. This is generally of the colour of ruſty iron, and might probably be worked as iron ore; is very hard and heavy, and of a firm, compact texture, and compoſed of a ſmall roundiſh cryſtalline grit, cemented together by a brown, terrene, ferruginous matter; will not cut without difficulty, nor eaſily ſtrike fire with ſteel. Being often found in broad flat pieces, it makes good pavement for paths about houſes, never becoming ſlippery in froſt or rain; is excellent for dry walls, and is ſometimes uſed in buildings. In many parts of that waſte it lies ſcattered on the ſurface of the ground; but is dug on *Weaver's Down*, a vaſt hill on the eaſtern verge of that foreſt, where the pits are ſhallow, and the ſtratum thin. This ſtone is imperiſhable.

From a notion of rendering their work the more elegant, and giving it a finiſh, maſons chip this ſtone into ſmall fragments about the ſize of the head of a large nail; and then ſtick the pieces into the wet mortar along the joints of their freeſtone walls: this embelliſhment carries an odd appearance, and has occaſioned ſtrangers ſometimes to aſk us pleaſantly, "whether we faſtened our walls "together with tenpenny nails."

LETTER

LETTER V.

TO THE SAME.

AMONG the ſingularities of this place the two rocky hollow lanes, the one to *Alton*, and the other to the foreſt, deſerve our attention. Theſe roads, running through the malm lands, are, by the traffick of ages, and the fretting of water, worn down through the firſt ſtratum of our freeſtone, and partly through the ſecond; ſo that they look more like water-courſes than roads; and are bedded with naked *rag* for furlongs together. In many places they are reduced ſixteen or eighteen feet beneath the level of the fields; and after floods, and in froſts, exhibit very groteſque and wild appearances, from the tangled roots that are twiſted among the ſtrata, and from the torrents ruſhing down their broken ſides; and eſpecially when thoſe caſcades are frozen into icicles, hanging in all the fanciful ſhapes of froſt-work. Theſe rugged gloomy ſcences affright the ladies when they peep down into them from the paths above, and make timid horſemen ſhudder while they ride along them; but delight the naturaliſt with their various botany, and particularly with their curious *filices* with which they abound.

The manor of *Selborne*, was it ſtrictly looked after, with all it's kindly aſpects, and all it's ſloping coverts, would ſwarm with game; even now hares, partridges, and pheaſants abound; and in old days woodcocks were as plentiful. There are few quails, becauſe they more affect open fields than encloſures; after harveſt ſome few land-rails are ſeen.

The pariſh of *Selborne*, by taking in ſo much of the foreſt, is a vaſt diſtrict. Thoſe who tread the bounds are employed part of

three days in the buſineſs, and are of opinion that the outline, in all it's curves and indentings, does not compriſe leſs than thirty miles.

The village ſtands in a ſheltered ſpot, ſecured by *The Hanger* from the ſtrong weſterly winds. The air is ſoft, but rather moiſt from the effluvia of ſo many trees; yet perfectly healthy and free from agues.

The quantity of rain that falls on it is very conſiderable, as may be ſuppoſed in ſo woody and mountainous a diſtrict. As my experience in meaſuring the water is but of ſhort date, I am not qualified to give the mean quantity[g]. I only know that

	Inch.	Hund.
From May 1, 1779, to the end of the year there fell	28	37!
From Jan. 1, 1780, to Jan. 1, 1781 - -	27	32
From Jan. 1, 1781, to Jan. 1, 1782 - -	30	71
From Jan. 1, 1782, to Jan. 1, 1783 - -	50	26!
From Jan. 1, 1783, to Jan. 1, 1784 - -	33	71
From Jan. 1, 1784, to Jan. 1, 1785 - -	33	80
From Jan. 1, 1785, to Jan. 1, 1786 - -	31	55
From Jan. 1, 1786, to Jan. 1, 1787 - -	39	57

The village of *Selborne*, and large hamlet of *Oakhanger*, with the ſingle farms, and many ſcattered houſes along the verge of

[g] A very intelligent gentleman aſſures me (and he ſpeaks from upwards of forty years experience) that the mean rain of any place cannot be aſcertained till a perſon has meaſured it for a very long period. "If I had only meaſured the rain," ſays he, "for the "four firſt years, from 1740 to 1743, I ſhould have ſaid the mean rain at *Lyndon* was "16 1-hf. inch for the year; if from 1740 to 1750, 18 1-hf. inches. The mean rain be-"fore 1763 was 20 1-qr. from 1763 and ſince 25 1-hf. from 1770 to 1780, 26. If only "1773, 1774 and 1775, had been meaſured, *Lyndon* mean rain would have been called "32 inches."

the

the foreſt, contain upwards of ſix hundred and ſeventy inhabitants [h].

[h] *A* STATE *of the* Pariſh *of* SELBORNE, *taken* OCTOBER 4, 1783.

The number of tenements or families, 136.

The number of inhabitants in the ſtreet is 313 } Total 676; near five inhabitants to
In the reſt of the pariſh - - 363 } each tenement.

In the time of the Rev. *Gilbert White*, Vicar, who died in 1727-8, the number of inhabitants was computed at about 500.

Average of baptiſms for 60 years.

From 1720 to 1729, both years incluſ.	Males 6, 9 / Females 6, 0	12, 9	From 1740 to 1749 incl.	M. 9, 2 / F. 6, 6	15, 8	From 1760 to 1769, incl.	M. 9, 1 / F. 8, 9	18, 0
From 1730 to 1739, both years incluſ.	Males 8, 2 / Females 7, 1	15, 3	From 1750 to 1759 incl.	M. 7, 6 / F. 8, 1	15, 7	From 1770 to 1779, incl.	M. 10, 5 / F. 9, 8	20, 3

Total of baptiſms of Males 515 / Females 465 } 980

Total of baptiſms from 1720 to 1779, both incluſive - - - 60 years - - - 980.

Average of burials for 60 years.

From 1720 to 1729, both years incluſ.	Males 4, 8 / Females 5, 1	9, 9	From 1740 to 1749, incl.	M. 4, 6 / F. 3, 8	8, 4	From 1760 to 1769, incl.	M. 6, 9 / F. 6, 5	13, 4
From 1730 to 1739, both years incluſ.	Males 4, 8 / Females 5, 8	10, 6	From 1750 to 1759, incl.	M. 4, 9 / F. 5, 1	10, 0	From 1770 to 1779, incl.	M. 5, 5 / F. 6, 2	11, 7

Total of burials of Males 315 / Females 325 } 640

Total of burials from 1720 to 1779, both incluſive - - - 60 years - - - 640.

Baptiſms exceed burials by more than one third.

Baptiſms of Males exceed Females by one tenth, or one in ten.

Burials of Females exceed Males by one in thirty.

It appears that a child, born and bred in this pariſh, has an equal chance to live above forty years.

Twins thirteen times, many of whom dying young have leſſened the chance for life.

Chances for life in men and women appear to be equal.

A TABLE *of the* Baptiſms, Burials, *and* Marriages, *from* January 2, 1761, *to* December 25, 1780, *in the* Pariſh *of* SELBORNE.

	BAPTISMS.			BURIALS.			MAR.		BAPTISMS.			BURIALS.			MAR.
	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.			M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	
1761.	8	10	18	2	4	6	3	1771.	10	6	16	3	4	7	4
1762.	7	8	15	10	14	24	6	1772.	11	10	21	6	10	16	3
1763.	8	10	18	3	4	7	5	1773.	8	5	13	7	5	12	3
1764.	11	9	20	10	8	18	6	1774.	6	13	19	2	8	10	1
1765.	12	6	18	9	7	16	6	1775.	20	7	27	13	8	21	6
1766.	9	13	22	10	6	16	4	1776.	11	10	21	4	6	10	6
1767.	14	5	19	6	5	11	2	1777.	8	13	21	7	3	10	4
1768.	7	6	13	2	5	7	6	1778.	7	13	20	3	4	7	5
1769.	9	14	23	6	5	11	2	1779.	14	8	22	5	6	11	5
1770.	10	13	23	4	7	11	3	1780.	8	9	17	11	4	15	3
	95	94	189	62	65	127	43		103	94	197	61	58	119	40
									95	94	189	62	65	127	43
									198	188	386	123	123	246	83

During this period of twenty years the births of males exceeded thoſe of females - - 10.

The burials of each ſex were equal.

And the births exceeded the deaths - - - 140.

We

We abound with poor; many of whom are ſober and induſtrious, and live comfortably in good ſtone or brick cottages, which are glazed, and have chambers above ſtairs: mud buildings we have none. Beſides the employment from huſbandry, the men work in hop gardens, of which we have many; and fell and bark timber. In the ſpring and ſummer the women weed the corn; and enjoy a ſecond harveſt in September by hop picking. Formerly, in the dead months they availed themſelves greatly by ſpinning wool, for making of *barragons*, a genteel corded ſtuff, much in vogue at that time for ſummer wear; and chiefly manufactured at *Alton*, a neighbouring town, by ſome of the people called Quakers: but from circumſtances this trade is at an end [i]. The inhabitants enjoy a good ſhare of health and longevity; and the pariſh ſwarms with children.

LETTER VI.

TO THE SAME.

SHOULD I omit to deſcribe with ſome exactneſs the *foreſt* of *Wolmer*, of which three fifths perhaps lie in this pariſh, my account of *Selborne* would be very imperfect, as it is a diſtrict abounding with many curious productions, both animal and vegetable; and has often afforded me much entertainment both as a ſportſman and as a naturaliſt.

[i] Since the paſſage above was written, I am happy in being able to ſay that the ſpinning employment is a little revived, to the no ſmall comfort of the induſtrious houſewife.

The

The royal *foreſt* of *Wolmer* is a tract of land of about ſeven miles in length, by two and a half in breadth, running nearly from North to South, and is abutted on, to begin to the South, and ſo to proceed eaſtward, by the pariſhes of *Greatham*, *Lyſſe*, *Rogate*, and *Trotton*, in the county of *Suſſex*; by *Bramſhot*, *Hedleigh*, and *Kingſley*. This royalty conſiſts entirely of ſand covered with heath and fern; but is ſomewhat diverſified with hills and dales, without having one ſtanding tree in the whole extent. In the bottoms, where the waters ſtagnate, are many bogs, which formerly abounded with ſubterraneous trees; though Dr. *Plot* ſays poſitively [k], that "there never were any fallen trees hidden in the moſſes of the "ſouthern counties." But he was miſtaken: for I myſelf have ſeen cottages on the verge of this wild diſtrict, whoſe timbers conſiſted of a black hard wood, looking like oak, which the owners aſſured me they procured from the bogs by probing the ſoil with ſpits, or ſome ſuch inſtruments: but the peat is ſo much cut out, and the moors have been ſo well examined, that none has been found of late [l]. Beſides the oak, I have alſo been ſhewn pieces of foſſil-wood of a paler colour, and ſofter nature, which the inhabitants called fir:

[k] See his Hiſt. of *Staffordſhire*.

[l] Old people have aſſured me, that on a winter's morning they have diſcovered theſe trees, in the bogs, by the hoar froſt, which lay longer over the ſpace where they were concealed, than on the ſurrounding moraſs. Nor does this ſeem to be a fanciful notion, but conſiſtent with true philoſophy. Dr. *Hales* ſaith, "That the warmth of the earth, at "ſome depth under ground, has an influence in promoting a thaw, as well as the change "of the weather from a freezing to a thawing ſtate, is manifeſt, from this obſervation, "viz. Nov. 29, 1731, a little ſnow having fallen in the night, it was, by eleven the next "morning, moſtly melted away on the ſurface of the earth, except in ſeveral places in "*Buſhy-park*, where there were *drains* dug and covered with earth, on which the ſnow "continued to lie, whether thoſe drains were full of water or dry; as alſo where *elm-pipes* "lay under ground: a plain proof this, that thoſe drains intercepted the warmth of the "earth

fir: but, upon a nice examination, and trial by fire, I could diſcover nothing reſinous in them; and therefore rather ſuppoſe that they were parts of a willow or alder, or ſome ſuch aquatic tree.

This lonely domain is a very agreeable haunt for many ſorts of wild fowls, which not only frequent it in the winter, but breed there in the ſummer; ſuch as lapwings, ſnipes, wild-ducks, and, as I have diſcovered within theſe few years, teals. Partridges in vaſt plenty are bred in good ſeaſons on the verge of this foreſt, into which they love to make excurſions: and in particular, in the dry ſummer of 1740 and 1741, and ſome years after, they ſwarmed to ſuch a degree that parties of unreaſonable ſportſmen killed twenty and ſometimes thirty brace in a day.

But there was a nobler ſpecies of game in this foreſt, now extinct, which I have heard old people ſay abounded much before ſhooting flying became ſo common, and that was the *heath-cock*, *black game*, or *grouſe*. When I was a little boy I recollect one coming now and then to my father's table. The laſt pack remembered was killed about thirty-five years ago; and within theſe ten years one ſolitary *grey hen* was ſprung by ſome beagles in beating for a hare. The ſportſmen cried out, "A hen pheaſant;" but a gentleman preſent, who had often ſeen grouſe in the North of England, aſſured me that it was a greyhen.

Nor does the loſs of our black game prove the only gap in the *Fauna Selbornienſis*; for another beautiful link in the chain of beings

"earth from aſcending from greater depths below them: for the ſnow lay where the drain "had more than four feet depth of earth over it. It continued alſo to lie on thatch, tiles, "and the tops of walls." See *Hales*'s Hæmaſtatics: p. 360. Quere, Might not ſuch obſervations be reduced to domeſtic uſe, by promoting the diſcovery of old obliterated drains and wells about houſes; and in Roman ſtations and camps lead to the finding of pavements, baths and graves, and other hidden relics of curious antiquity?

is

is wanting, I mean the *red deer*, which toward the beginning of this century amounted to about five hundred head, and made a ſtately appearance. There is an old keeper, now alive, named *Adams*, whoſe great grandfather (mentioned in a perambulation taken in 1635) grandfather, father and ſelf, enjoyed the head keeperſhip of *Wolmer foreſt* in ſucceſſion for more than an hundred years. This perſon aſſures me, that his father has often told him, that Queen *Anne*, as ſhe was journeying on the *Portſmouth* road, did not think the foreſt of *Wolmer* beneath her royal regard. For ſhe came out of the great road at *Lippock*, which is juſt by, and, repoſing herſelf on a bank ſmoothed for that purpoſe, lying about half a mile to the eaſt of *Wolmer-pond*, and ſtill called *Queen's-bank*, ſaw with great complacency and ſatisfaction the whole herd of red deer brought by the keepers along the vale before her, conſiſting then of about five hundred head. A ſight this worthy the attention of the greateſt ſovereign! But he farther adds that, by means of the *Waltham blacks*, or, to uſe his own expreſſion, as ſoon as they began *blacking*, they were reduced to about fifty head, and ſo continued decreaſing till the time of the late Duke of *Cumberland*. It is now more than thirty years ago that his highneſs ſent down an huntſman, and ſix yeomen-prickers, in ſcarlet jackets laced with gold, attended by the ſtag-hounds; ordering them to take every deer in this foreſt alive, and to convey them in carts to *Windſor*. In the courſe of the ſummer they caught every ſtag, ſome of which ſhewed extraordinary diverſion: but, in the following winter, when the hinds were alſo carried off, ſuch fine chaſes were exhibited as ſerved the country people for matter of talk and wonder for years afterwards. I ſaw myſelf one of the yeomen-prickers ſingle out a ſtag from the herd, and muſt confeſs that it was the moſt curious feat of activity I ever beheld, ſuperior to any thing in Mr. *Aſtley*'s

riding-ſchool. The exertions made by the horſe and deer much exceeded all my expectations; though the former greatly excelled the latter in ſpeed. When the devoted deer was ſeparated from his companions, they gave him, by their watches, law, as they called it, for twenty minutes; when, ſounding their horns, the ſtop-dogs were permitted to purſue, and a moſt gallant ſcene enſued.

LETTER VII.

TO THE SAME.

THOUGH large herds of deer do much harm to the neighbourhood, yet the injury to the morals of the people is of more moment than the loſs of their crops. The temptation is irreſiſtible; for moſt men are ſportſmen by conſtitution: and there is ſuch an inherent ſpirit for hunting in human nature, as ſcarce any inhibitions can reſtrain. Hence, towards the beginning of this century all this country was wild about deer-ſtealing. Unleſs he was a *hunter*, as they affected to call themſelves, no young perſon was allowed to be poſſeſſed of manhood or gallantry. The *Waltham blacks* at length committed ſuch enormities, that government was forced to interfere with that ſevere and ſanguinary act called the *black act*[m], which now comprehends more felonies than any law that ever was framed before. And, therefore, a late biſhop of *Wincheſter*,

[m] Statute 9 *Geo.* I. c. 22.

when

when urged to re-ſtock *Waltham-chaſe*[n], refuſed, from a motive worthy of a prelate, replying that "it had done miſchief enough "already."

Our old race of deer-ſtealers are hardly extinct yet: it was but a little while ago that, over their ale, they uſed to recount the exploits of their youth; ſuch as watching the pregnant hind to her lair, and, when the calf was dropped, paring it's feet with a penknife to the quick to prevent it's eſcape, till it was large and fat enough to be killed; the ſhooting at one of their neighbours with a bullet in a turnip-field by moonſhine, miſtaking him for a deer; and the loſing a dog in the following extraordinary manner:—Some fellows, ſuſpecting that a calf new-fallen was depoſited in a certain ſpot of thick fern, went, with a lurcher, to ſurpriſe it; when the parent-hind ruſhed out of the brake, and, taking a vaſt ſpring with all her feet cloſe together, pitched upon the neck of the dog, and broke it ſhort in two.

Another temptation to idleneſs and ſporting was a number of rabbits, which poſſeſſed all the hillocks and dry places: but theſe being inconvenient to the huntſmen, on account of their burrows, when they came to take away the deer, they permitted the country people to deſtroy them all.

Such foreſts and waſtes, when their allurements to irregularities are removed, are of conſiderable ſervice to neighbourhoods that verge upon them, by furniſhing them with peat and turf for their firing; with fuel for the burning their lime; and with aſhes for their graſſes; and by maintaining their geeſe and their ſtock of young cattle at little or no expenſe.

The manor-farm of the pariſh of *Greatham* has an admitted

[n] This chaſe remains un-ſtocked to this day; the biſhop was Dr. *Hoadly*.

claim, I ſee, (by an old record taken from the *Tower of London*) of turning all live ſtock on the foreſt, at proper ſeaſons, *bidentibus exceptis*[o]. The reaſon, I preſume, why ſheep[p] are excluded, is, becauſe, being ſuch cloſe grazers, they would pick out all the fineſt graſſes, and hinder the deer from thriving.

Though (by ſtatute 4 and 5 *W.* and *Mary*) c. 23. "to burn on "any waſte, between *Candlemas* and *Midſummer*, any grig, ling, "heath and furze, goſs or fern, is puniſhable with whipping "and confinement in the houſe of correction;" yet, in this foreſt, about *March* or *April*, according to the dryneſs of the ſeaſon, ſuch vaſt heath-fires are lighted up, that they often get to a maſterleſs head, and, catching the hedges, have ſometimes been communicated to the underwoods, woods, and coppices, where great damage has enſued. The plea for theſe burnings is, that, when the old coat of heath, &c. is conſumed, young will ſprout up, and afford much tender brouze for cattle; but, where there is large old furze, the fire, following the roots, conſumes the very ground; ſo that for hundreds of acres nothing is to be ſeen but ſmother and deſolation, the whole circuit round looking like the cinders of a volcano; and, the ſoil being quite exhauſted, no traces of vegetation are to be found for years. Theſe conflagrations, as they take place uſually with a north-eaſt or eaſt wind, much annoy this village with their ſmoke, and often alarm the country; and, once in particular, I remember that a gentleman, who lives beyond *Andover*, coming to my houſe, when he got on the downs between that town and *Winchester*, at twenty-five miles

[o] For this privilege the owner of that eſtate uſed to pay to the king annually ſeven buſhels of oats.

[p] In *The Holt*, where a full ſtock of fallow-deer has been kept up till lately, no ſheep are admitted to this day.

diſtance,

diſtance, was ſurpriſed much with ſmoke and a hot ſmell of fire; and concluded that *Alresford* was in flames; but, when he came to that town, he then had apprehenſions for the next village, and ſo on to the end of his journey.

On two of the moſt conſpicuous eminences of this foreſt ſtand two *arbours* or *bowers*, made of the boughs of oaks; the one called *Waldon-lodge*, the other *Brimſtone-lodge*: theſe the keepers renew annually on the feaſt of St. *Barnabas*, taking the old materials for a perquiſite. The farm called *Blackmoor*, in this pariſh, is obliged to find the poſts and bruſh-wood for the former; while the farms at *Greatham*, in rotation, furniſh for the latter; and are all enjoined to cut and deliver the materials at the ſpot. This cuſtom I mention, becauſe I look upon it to be of very remote antiquity.

LETTER VIII.

TO THE SAME.

On the verge of the foreſt, as it is now circumſcribed, are three conſiderable lakes, two in *Oakhanger*, of which I have nothing particular to ſay; and one called *Bin's*, or *Bean's pond*, which is worthy the attention of a naturaliſt or a ſportſman. For, being crowded at the upper end with willows, and with the *carex ceſpitoſa*[q], it affords ſuch a ſafe and pleaſing ſhelter to wild ducks,

[q] I mean that ſort which, riſing into tall haſſocks, is called by the foreſters *torrets*; a corruption, I ſuppoſe of turrets.

Note, In the beginning of the ſummer 1787 the royal foreſts of *Wolmer* and *Holt* were meaſured by perſons ſent down by government.

teals,

teals, ſnipes, &c. that they breed there. In the winter this covert is alſo frequented by foxes, and ſometimes by pheaſants; and the bogs produce many curious plants. [For which conſult letter XLII. to Mr. *Barrington*.]

By a *perambulation* of *Wolmer foreſt* and *The Holt*, made in 1635, and in the eleventh year of *Charles* the Firſt (which now lies before me), it appears that the limits of the former are much circumſcribed. For, to ſay nothing of the farther ſide, with which I am not ſo well acquainted, the bounds on this ſide, in old times, came into *Binſwood*; and extended to the ditch of *Ward le ham-park*, in which ſtands the curious mount called *King John's Hill*, and *Lodge Hill*; and to the verge of *Hartley Mauduit*, called *Mauduit-hatch*; comprehending alſo *Short-heath*, *Oakhanger*, and *Oakwoods*; a large diſtrict, now private property, though once belonging to the royal domain.

It is remarkable that the term *purlieu* is never once mentioned in this long roll of parchment. It contains, beſides the *perambulation*, a rough eſtimate of the value of the timbers, which were conſiderable, growing at that time in the diſtrict of *The Holt*; and enumerates the officers, ſuperior and inferior, of thoſe joint foreſts, for the time being, and their oſtenſible fees and perquiſites. In thoſe days, as at preſent, there were hardly any trees in *Wolmer foreſt*.

Within the preſent limits of the foreſt are three conſiderable lakes, *Hogmer*, *Cranmer*, and *Wolmer*; all of which are ſtocked with carp, tench, eels, and perch: but the fiſh do not thrive well, becauſe the water is hungry, and the bottoms are a naked ſand.

A circumſtance reſpecting theſe ponds, though by no means peculiar to them, I cannot paſs over in ſilence; and that is, that inſtinct by which in ſummer all the kine, whether oxen, cows, calves

calves, or heifers, retire conſtantly to the water during the hotter hours; where, being more exempt from flies, and inhaling the coolneſs of that element, ſome belly deep, and ſome only to mid-leg, they ruminate and ſolace themſelves from about ten in the morning till four in the afternoon, and then return to their feeding. During this great proportion of the day they drop much dung, in which inſects neſtle; and ſo ſupply food for the fiſh, which would be poorly ſubſiſted but from this contingency. Thus Nature, who is a great economiſt, converts the recreation of one animal to the ſupport of another! *Thomſon*, who was a nice obſerver of natural occurrences, did not let this pleaſing circumſtance eſcape him. He ſays, in his *Summer*,

> " A various group the herds and flocks compoſe:
> " ——————— on the graſſy bank
> " Some ruminating lie; while others ſtand
> " Half in the flood, and, often bending, ſip
> " The circling ſurface."

Wolmer-pond, ſo called, I ſuppoſe, for eminence ſake, is a vaſt lake for this part of the world, containing, in it's whole circumference, 2646 yards, or very near a mile and an half. The length of the north-weſt and oppoſite ſide is about 704 yards, and the breadth of the ſouth-weſt end about 456 yards. This meaſurement, which I cauſed to be made with good exactneſs, gives an area of about ſixty-ſix acres, excluſive of a large irregular arm at the north-eaſt corner, which we did not take into the reckoning.

On the face of this expanſe of waters, and perfectly ſecure from fowlers, lie all day long, in the winter ſeaſon, vaſt flocks of ducks, teals, and wigeons, of various denominations; where they preen and ſolace, and reſt themſelves, till towards ſun-ſet, when they iſſue forth in little parties (for in their natural ſtate they are all birds

birds of the night) to feed in the brooks and meadows; returning again with the dawn of the morning. Had this lake an arm or two more, and were it planted round with thick covert (for now it is perfectly naked), it might make a valuable decoy.

Yet neither it's extent, nor the clearneſs of it's water, nor the reſort of various and curious fowls, nor it's picturesque groups of cattle, can render this *meer* ſo remarkable as the great quantity of coins that were found in it's bed about forty years ago. But, as ſuch diſcoveries more properly belong to the *antiquities* of this place, I ſhall ſuppreſs all particulars for the preſent, till I enter profeſſedly on my ſeries of letters reſpecting the more remote hiſtory of this village and diſtrict.

LETTER IX.

TO THE SAME.

By way of ſupplement, I ſhall trouble you once more on this ſubject, to inform you that *Wolmer*, with her ſiſter foreſt *Ayles Holt*, alias *Alice Holt*[q], as it is called in old records, is held by grant from the crown for a term of years.

The grantees that the author remembers are Brigadier-General *Emanuel Scroope Howe*, and his lady, *Ruperta*, who was a natural daughter of Prince *Rupert* by *Margaret Hughs*; a Mr. *Mordaunt*, of

[q] "In Rot. Inquiſit. de ſtatu foreſt. in Scaccar. 36. Ed. 3. it is called *Aiſholt*."
In the ſame, "Tit. *Woolmer* and *Aiſholt* Hantiſc. Dominus Rex habet unam capellam in *haia* ſua de Kingeſle." "*Haia, ſepes, ſepimentum, parcus*: a Gall. *haie* and *haye*." Spelman's Gloſſary.

the

the *Peterborough* family, who married a dowager Lady *Pembroke*; *Henry Bilſon Legge* and lady; and now Lord *Stawel*, their ſon.

The lady of General *Howe* lived to an advanced age, long ſurviving her huſband; and, at her death, left behind her many curious pieces of mechaniſm of her father's conſtructing, who was a diſtinguiſhed mechanic and artiſt [r], as well as warrior; and, among the reſt, a very complicated clock, lately in poſſeſſion of Mr. *Elmer*, the celebrated game-painter at *Farnham*, in the county of *Surrey*.

Though theſe two foreſts are only parted by a narrow range of enclofures, yet no two ſoils can be more different: for *The Holt* conſiſts of a ſtrong loam, of a miry nature, carrying a good turf, and abounding with oaks that grow to be large timber; while *Wolmer* is nothing but a hungry, ſandy, barren waſte.

The former, being all in the pariſh of *Binſted*, is about two miles in extent from north to ſouth, and near as much from eaſt to weſt; and contains within it many woodlands and lawns, and the *great lodge* where the grantees reſide; and a ſmaller lodge called *Gooſe-green*; and is abutted on by the pariſhes of *Kingſley*, *Frinſham*, *Farnham*, and *Bentley*; all of which have right of common.

One thing is remarkable; that, though *The Holt* has been of old well ſtocked with fallow-deer, unreſtrained by any pales or fences more than a common hedge, yet they were never ſeen within the limits of *Wolmer*; nor were the red deer of *Wolmer* ever known to haunt the thickets or glades of *The Holt*.

At preſent the deer of *The Holt* are much thinned and reduced by the night-hunters, who perpetually haraſs them in ſpite of the

[r] This prince was the inventor of *mezzotinto*.

efforts of numerous keepers, and the ſevere penalties that have been put in force againſt them as often as they have been detected, and rendered liable to the laſh of the law. Neither fines nor impriſonments can deter them: ſo impoſſible is it to extinguiſh the ſpirit of ſporting, which ſeems to be inherent in human nature.

General *Howe* turned out ſome *German* wild boars and ſows in his foreſts, to the great terror of the neighbourhood; and, at one time, a wild bull or buffalo: but the country roſe upon them and deſtroyed them.

A very large fall of timber, conſiſting of about one thouſand oaks, has been cut this ſpring (viz. 1784) in *The Holt foreſt*; one fifth of which, it is ſaid, belongs to the grantee, Lord *Stawel*. He lays claim alſo to the lop and top: but the poor of the pariſhes of *Binſted* and *Frinſham*, *Bentley* and *Kingſley*, aſſert that it belongs to them; and, aſſembling in a riotous manner, have actually taken it all away. One man, who keeps a team, has carried home, for his ſhare, forty ſtacks of wood. Forty-five of theſe people his Lordſhip has ſerved with actions. Theſe trees, which were very ſound, and in high perfection, were *winter-cut*, viz. in *February* and *March*, before the bark would run. In old times *The Holt* was eſtimated to be eighteen miles, computed meaſure, from water-carriage, *viz.* from the town of *Chertſey*, on the *Thames*; but now it is not half that diſtance, ſince the *Wey* is made navigable up to the town of *Godalming* in the county of *Surrey*.

LETTER

LETTER X.

TO THE SAME.

August 4, 1767.

It has been my misfortune never to have had any neighbours whose ſtudies have led them towards the purſuit of natural knowledge: ſo that, for want of a companion to quicken my induſtry and ſharpen my attention, I have made but ſlender progreſs in a kind of information to which I have been attached from my childhood.

As to *ſwallows (hirundines ruſticæ)* being found in a torpid ſtate during the winter in the iſle of *Wight*, or any part of this country, I never heard any ſuch account worth attending to. But a clergyman, of an inquiſitive turn, aſſures me, that, when he was a great boy, ſome workmen, in pulling down the battlements of a church tower early in the ſpring, found two or three *ſwifts (hirundines apodes)* among the rubbiſh, which were, at firſt appearance, dead; but, on being carried toward the fire, revived. He told me that, out of his great care to preſerve them, he put them in a paper-bag, and hung them by the kitchen fire, where they were ſuffocated.

Another intelligent perſon has informed me that, while he was a ſchoolboy at *Brighthelmſtone*, in *Suſſex*, a great fragment of the chalk-cliff fell down one ſtormy winter on the beach; and that many people found *ſwallows* among the rubbiſh: but, on my queſtioning him whether he ſaw any of thoſe birds himſelf; to my no ſmall diſappointment, he anſwered me in the negative; but that others aſſured him they did.

Young broods of *ſwallows* began to appear this year on *July* the eleventh, and young *martins (hirundines urbicæ)* were then fledged in their neſts. Both ſpecies will breed again once. For I ſee by my *fauna* of laſt year, that young broods came forth ſo late as *September* the eighteenth. Are not theſe late hatchings more in favour of hiding than migration? Nay, ſome young martins remained in their neſts laſt year ſo late as *September* the twenty-ninth; and yet they totally diſappeared with us by the fifth of *October*.

How ſtrange is it that the *ſwift*, which ſeems to live exactly the ſame life with the *ſwallow* and *houſe-martin*, ſhould leave us before the middle of *Auguſt* invariably! while the latter ſtay often till the middle of *October*; and once I ſaw numbers of houſe-martins on the ſeventh of *November*. The martins and *red-wing fieldfares* were flying in ſight together; an uncommon aſſemblage of ſummer and winter-birds!

A little yellow bird (it is either a ſpecies of the *alauda trivialis*, or rather perhaps of the *motacilla trochilus)* ſtill continues to make a ſibilous ſhivering noiſe in the tops of tall woods. The *ſtoparola* of *Ray* (for which we have as yet no name in theſe parts) is called, in your *Zoology*, the *fly-catcher*. There is one circumſtance characteriſtic of this bird, which ſeems to have eſcaped obſervation, and that is, it takes it's ſtand on the top of ſome ſtake or poſt, from whence it ſprings forth on it's prey, catching a fly in the air, and hardly ever touching the ground, but returning ſtill to the ſame ſtand for many times together.

I perceive there are more than one ſpecies of the *motacilla trochilus:* Mr. *Derham* ſuppoſes, in *Ray's Philoſ. Letters*, that he has diſcovered three. In theſe there is again an inſtance of ſome very common birds that have as yet no *Engliſh* name.

Mr.

Mr. *Stillingfleet* makes a queſtion whether the *black-cap (motacilla atricapilla)* be a bird of paſſage or not: I think there is no doubt of it: for, in *April*, in the firſt fine weather, they come trooping, all at once, into theſe parts, but are never ſeen in the winter. They are delicate ſongſters.

Numbers of *ſnipes* breed every ſummer in ſome moory ground on the verge of this pariſh. It is very amuſing to ſee the cock bird on wing at that time, and to hear his piping and humming notes.

I have had no opportunity yet of procuring any of thoſe mice which I mentioned to you in town. The perſon that brought me the laſt ſays they are plenty in harveſt, at which time I will take care to get more; and will endeavour to put the matter out of doubt, whether it be a non-deſcript ſpecies or not.

I ſuſpect much there may be two ſpecies of water-rats. *Ray* ſays, and *Linnæus* after him, that the water-rat is web-footed behind. Now I have diſcovered a rat on the banks of our little ſtream that is not web-footed, and yet is an exellent ſwimmer and diver: it anſwers exactly to the *mus amphibius* of *Linnæus* (See *Syſt. Nat.*) which he ſays "*natat in foſſis & urinatur.*" I ſhould be glad to procure one "*plantis palmatis.*" *Linnæus* ſeems to be in a puzzle about his *mus amphibius*, and to doubt whether it differs from his *mus terreſtris*; which if it be, as he allows, the "*mus agreſtis capite grandi brachyuros*" of *Ray*, is widely different from the water-rat, both in ſize, make, and manner of life.

As to the *falco*, which I mentioned in town, I ſhall take the liberty to ſend it down to you into *Wales*; preſuming on your candour, that you will excuſe me if it ſhould appear as familiar to you as it is ſtrange to me. Though mutilated "*qualem dices . . . antehac fuiſſe, tales cum ſint reliquiæ!*"

It

It haunted a marſhy piece of ground in queſt of wild-ducks and ſnipes: but, when it was ſhot, had juſt knocked down a rook, which it was tearing in pieces. I cannot make it anſwer to any of our *Engliſh* hawks; neither could I find any like it at the curious exhibition of ſtuffed birds in *Spring-Gardens*. I found it nailed up at the end of a barn, which is the countryman's muſeum.

The pariſh I live in is a very abrupt, uneven country, full of hills and woods, and therefore full of birds.

LETTER XI.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE, September 9, 1767.

IT will not be without impatience that I ſhall wait for your thoughts with regard to the *falco*; as to it's weight, breadth, &c. I wiſh I had ſet them down at the time: but, to the beſt of my remembrance, it weighed two pounds and eight ounces, and meaſured, from wing to wing, thirty-eight inches. It's *cere* and feet were yellow, and the circle of it's eyelids a bright yellow. As it had been killed ſome days, and the eyes were ſunk, I could make no good obſervation on the colour of the pupils and the *irides*.

The moſt unuſual birds I ever obſerved in theſe parts were a pair of *hoopoes* (*upupa*), which came ſeveral years ago in the ſummer, and frequented an ornamented piece of ground, which joins to my garden, for ſome weeks. They uſed to march about in a ſtately manner, feeding in the walks, many times in the day; and ſeemed diſpoſed

diſpoſed to breed in my outlet; but were frighted and perſecuted by idle boys, who would never let them be at reſt.

Three *groſs-beaks (loxia coccothrauſtes)* appeared ſome years ago in my fields, in the winter; one of which I ſhot: ſince that, now and then one is occaſionally ſeen in the ſame dead ſeaſon.

A *croſs-bill (loxia curviroſtra)* was killed laſt year in this neighbourhood.

Our ſtreams, which are ſmall, and riſe only at the end of the village, yield nothing but the *bull's-head* or *miller's-thumb (gobius fluviatilis capitatus)*, the *trout (trutta fluviatilis)*, the *eel (anguilla)*, *the lampern (lampætra parva et fluviatilis)*, and the *ſtickle-back (piſciculus aculeatus)*.

We are twenty miles from the ſea, and almoſt as many from a great river, and therefore ſee but little of ſea-birds. As to wild fowls, we have a few teems of *ducks* bred in the moors where the ſnipes breed; and multitudes of *widgeons* and *teals* in hard weather frequent our lakes in the foreſt.

Having ſome acquaintance with a tame *brown owl*, I find that it caſts up the fur of mice, and the feathers of birds in pellets, after the manner of hawks: when full, like a dog, it hides what it cannot eat.

The young of the barn-owl are not eaſily raiſed, as they want a conſtant ſupply of freſh mice: whereas the young of the brown owl will eat indiſcriminately all that is brought; ſnails, rats, kittens, puppies, magpies, and any kind of carrion or offal.

The houſe-martins have eggs ſtill, and ſquab-young. The laſt ſwift I obſerved was about the twenty-firſt of *Auguſt*; it was a ſtraggler.

Red-ſtarts, *fly-catchers*, *white-throats*, and *reguli non criſtati*, ſtill appear; but I have ſeen no *black-caps* lately.

I forgot

I forgot to mention that I once ſaw, in *Chriſt Church* college quadrangle in *Oxford*, on a very ſunny warm morning, a *houſe martin* flying about, and ſettling on the parapets, ſo late as the twentieth of *November*.

At preſent I know only two ſpecies of *bats*, the common *veſpertilio murinus* and the *veſpertilio auribus*.

I was much entertained laſt ſummer with a tame bat, which would take flies out of a perſon's hand. If you gave it any thing to eat, it brought it's wings round before the mouth, hovering and hiding it's head in the manner of birds of prey when they feed. The adroitneſs it ſhewed in ſhearing off the wings of the flies, which were always rejected, was worthy of obſervation, and pleaſed me much. Inſects ſeemed to be moſt acceptable, though it did not refuſe raw fleſh when offered: ſo that the notion, that bats go down chimnies and gnaw men's bacon, ſeems no improbable ſtory. While I amuſed myſelf with this wonderful quadruped, I ſaw it ſeveral times confute the vulgar opinion, that bats when down on a flat ſurface cannot get on the wing again, by riſing with great eaſe from the floor. It ran, I obſerved, with more diſpatch than I was aware of; but in a moſt ridiculous and groteſque manner.

Bats drink on the wing, like ſwallows, by ſipping the ſurface, as they play over pools and ſtreams. They love to frequent waters, not only for the ſake of drinking, but on account of inſects, which are found over them in the greateſt plenty. As I was going, ſome years ago, pretty late, in a boat from *Richmond* to *Sunbury*, on a warm ſummer's evening, I think I ſaw myriads of bats between the two places: the air ſwarmed with them all along the *Thames*, ſo that hundreds were in ſight at a time.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XII.

TO THE SAME.

SIR, November 4, 1767.

IT gave me no ſmall ſatisfaction to hear that the *falco*[s] turned out an uncommon one. I muſt confeſs I ſhould have been better pleaſed to have heard that I had ſent you a bird that you had never ſeen before; but that, I find, would be a difficult taſk.

I have procured ſome of the mice mentioned in my former letters, a young one and a female with young, both of which I have preſerved in brandy. From the colour, ſhape, ſize, and manner of neſting, I make no doubt but that the ſpecies is non-deſcript. They are much ſmaller, and more ſlender, than the *mus domeſticus medius* of *Ray*; and have more of the ſquirrel or dormouſe colour: their belly is white; a ſtraight line along their ſides divides the ſhades of their back and belly. They never enter into houſes; are carried into ricks and barns with the ſheaves; abound in harveſt; and build their neſts amidſt the ſtraws of the corn above the ground, and ſometimes in thiſtles. They breed as many as eight at a litter, in a little round neſt compoſed of the blades of graſs or wheat.

One of theſe neſts I procured this autumn, moſt artificially platted, and compoſed of the blades of wheat; perfectly round, and about the ſize of a cricket-ball; with the aperture ſo ingeniouſly cloſed, that there was no diſcovering to what part it

[s] This hawk proved to be the *falco peregrinus*; a variety.

belonged. It was ſo compact and well filled, that it would roll acroſs the table without being diſcompoſed, though it contained eight little mice that were naked and blind. As this neſt was perfectly full, how could the dam come at her litter reſpectively ſo as to adminiſter a teat to each? perhaps ſhe opens different places for that purpoſe, adjuſting them again when the buſineſs is over: but ſhe could not poſſibly be contained herſelf in the ball with her young, which moreover would be daily increaſing in bulk. This wonderful procreant cradle, an elegant inſtance of the efforts of inſtinct, was found in a wheat-field ſuſpended in the head of a thiſtle.

A gentleman, curious in birds, wrote me word that his ſervant had ſhot one laſt *January*, in that ſevere weather, which he believed would puzzle me. I called to ſee it this ſummer, not knowing what to expect: but, the moment I took it in hand, I pronounced it the male *garrulus bohemicus* or *German* ſilk-tail, from the five peculiar crimſon tags or points which it carries at the ends of five of the ſhort remiges. It cannot, I ſuppoſe, with any propriety, be called an *Engliſh* bird: and yet I ſee, by *Ray's Philoſoph. Letters*, that great flocks of them, feeding on haws, appeared in this kingdom in the winter of 1685.

The mention of haws puts me in mind that there is a total failure of that wild fruit, ſo conducive to the ſupport of many of the winged nation. For the ſame ſevere weather, late in the ſpring, which cut off all the produce of the more tender and curious trees, deſtroyed alſo that of the more hardy and common.

Some birds, haunting with the miſſel-thruſhes, and feeding on the berries of the yew-tree, which anſwered to the deſcription of the *merula torquata* or *ring-ouzel*, were lately ſeen in this neighbourhood.

bourhood. I employed ſome people to procure me a ſpecimen, but without ſucceſs. See Letter VIII.

Query—Might not *Canary* birds be naturalized to this climate, provided their eggs were put, in the ſpring, into the neſts of ſome of their congeners, as goldfinches, greenfinches, &c.? Before winter perhaps they might be hardened, and able to ſhift for themſelves.

About ten years ago I uſed to ſpend ſome weeks yearly at *Sunbury*, which is one of thoſe pleaſant villages lying on the *Thames*, near *Hampton-court*. In the autumn, I could not help being much amuſed with thoſe myriads of the ſwallow kind which aſſemble in thoſe parts. But what ſtruck me moſt was, that, from the time they began to congregate, forſaking the chimnies and houſes, they roofted every night in the oſier-beds of the aits of that river. Now this reſorting towards that element, at that ſeaſon of the year, ſeems to give ſome countenance to the northern opinion (ſtrange as it is) of their retiring under water. A *Swediſh* naturaliſt is ſo much perſuaded of that fact, that he talks, in his calendar of *Flora*, as familiarly of the ſwallow's going under water in the beginning of *September*, as he would of his poultry going to rooſt a little before ſunſet.

An obſerving gentleman in *London* writes me word that he ſaw an houſe-martin, on the twenty-third of laſt *October*, flying in and out of it's neſt in the *Borough*. And I myſelf, on the twenty-ninth of laſt *October* (as I was travelling through *Oxford*), ſaw four or five ſwallows hovering round and ſettling on the roof of the county-hoſpital.

Now is it likely that theſe poor little birds (which perhaps had not been hatched but a few weeks) ſhould, at that late ſeaſon of the

year, and from ſo midland a county, attempt a voyage to *Goree* or *Senegal*, almoſt as far as the *equator*[t]?

I acquieſce entirely in your opinion—that, though moſt of the ſwallow kind may migrate, yet that ſome do ſtay behind and hide with us during the winter.

As to the ſhort-winged ſoft-billed birds, which come trooping in ſuch numbers in the ſpring, I am at a loſs even what to ſuſpect about them. I watched them narrowly this year, and ſaw them abound till about *Michaelmas*, when they appeared no longer. Subſiſt they cannot openly among us, and yet elude the eyes of the inquiſitive: and, as to their hiding, no man pretends to have found any of them in a torpid ſtate in the winter. But with regard to their migration, what difficulties attend that ſuppoſition! that ſuch feeble bad fliers (who the ſummer long never flit but from hedge to hedge) ſhould be able to traverſe vaſt ſeas and continents in order to enjoy milder ſeaſons amidſt the regions of *Africa!*

LETTER XIII.

TO THE SAME.

SIR, SELBORNE, Jan. 22, 1768.

As in one of your former letters you expreſſed the more ſatisfaction from my correſpondence on account of my living in the moſt ſoutherly county; ſo now I may return the compliment, and expect to have my curioſity gratified by your living much more to the North.

[t] See *Adanſon*'s Voyage to *Senegal*.

For

For many years paſt I have obſerved that towards *Chriſtmas* vaſt flocks of chaffinches have appeared in the fields; many more, I uſed to think, than could be hatched in any one neighbourhood. But, when I came to obſerve them more narrowly, I was amazed to find that they ſeemed to me to be almoſt all hens. I communicated my ſuſpicions to ſome intelligent neighbours, who, after taking pains about the matter, declared that they alſo thought them all moſtly females; at leaſt fifty to one. This extraordinary occurrence brought to my mind the remark of *Linnæus*; that "before winter all their hen chaffinches migrate through *Holland* "into *Italy*." Now I want to know, from ſome curious perſon in the north, whether there are any large flocks of theſe finches with them in the winter, and of which ſex they moſtly conſiſt? For, from ſuch intelligence, one might be able to judge whether our female flocks migrate from the other end of the iſland, or whether they come over to us from the continent.

We have, in the winter, vaſt flocks of the common linnets; more, I think, than can be bred in any one diſtrict. Theſe, I obſerve, when the ſpring advances, aſſemble on ſome tree in the ſunſhine, and join all in a gentle ſort of chirping, as if they were about to break up their winter quarters and betake themſelves to their proper ſummer homes. It is well known, at leaſt, that the ſwallows and the fieldfares do congregate with a gentle twittering before they make their reſpective departure.

You may depend on it that the bunting, *emberiza miliaria*, does not leave this county in the winter. In *January* 1767 I ſaw ſeveral dozen of them, in the midſt of a ſevere froſt, among the buſhes on the downs near *Andover:* in our woodland encloſed diſtrict it is a rare bird.

Wagtails,

Wagtails, both white and yellow, are with us all the winter. Quails crowd to our ſouthern coaſt, and are often killed in numbers by people that go on purpoſe.

Mr. *Stillingfleet*, in his Tracts, ſays that "if the wheatear *(ænanthe)* "does not quit *England*, it certainly ſhifts places; for about "harveſt they are not to be found, where there was before great "plenty of them." This well accounts for the vaſt quantities that are caught about that time on the ſouth downs near *Lewes*, where they are eſteemed a delicacy. There have been ſhepherds, I have been credibly informed, that have made many pounds in a ſeaſon by catching them in traps. And though ſuch multitudes are taken, I never ſaw (and I am well acquainted with thoſe parts) above two or three at a time: for they are never gregarious. They may perhaps migrate in general; and, for that purpoſe, draw towards the coaſt of *Suſſex* in autumn: but that they do not all withdraw I am ſure; becauſe I ſee a few ſtragglers in many counties, at all times of the year, eſpecially about warrens and ſtone quarries.

I have no acquaintance, at preſent, among the gentlemen of the navy: but have written to a friend, who was a ſea-chaplain in the late war, deſiring him to look into his minutes, with reſpect to birds that ſettled on their rigging during their voyage up or down the channel. What *Haſſelquiſt* ſays on that ſubject is remarkable. there were little ſhort-winged birds frequently coming on board his ſhip all the way from our channel quite up to the *Levant*, eſpecially before ſqually weather.

What you ſuggeſt, with regard to *Spain*, is highly probable. The winters of *Andaluſia* are ſo mild, that, in all likelihood, the ſoft-billed birds that leave us at that ſeaſon may find inſects ſufficient to ſupport them there.

Some

Some young man, poſſeſſed of fortune, health, and leiſure, ſhould make an autumnal voyage into that kingdom; and ſhould ſpend a year there, inveſtigating the natural hiſtory of that vaſt country. Mr. *Willughby*[u] paſſed through that kingdom on ſuch an errand; but he ſeems to have ſkirted along in a ſuperficial manner and an ill humour, being much diſguſted at the rude diſſolute manners of the people.

I have no friend left now at *Sunbury* to apply to about the ſwallows rooſting on the aits of the *Thames:* nor can I hear any more about thoſe birds which I ſuſpected were *merulæ torquatæ*.

As to the ſmall mice, I have farther to remark, that though they hang their neſts for breeding up amidſt the ſtraws of the ſtanding corn, above the ground; yet I find that, in the winter, they burrow deep in the earth, and make warm beds of graſs: but their grand rendezvous ſeems to be in corn-ricks, into which they are carried at harveſt. A neighbour houſed an oat-rick lately, under the thatch of which were aſſembled near an hundred, moſt of which were taken; and ſome I ſaw. I meaſured them; and found that, from noſe to tail, they were juſt two inches and a quarter, and their tails juſt two inches long. Two of them, in a ſcale, weighed down juſt one copper halfpenny, which is about the third of an ounce avoirdupois: ſo that I ſuppoſe they are the ſmalleſt quadrupeds in this iſland. A full-grown *mus medius domeſticus* weighs, I find, one ounce lumping weight, which is more than ſix times as much as the mouſe above; and meaſures from noſe to rump four inches and a quarter, and the ſame in it's tail. We have had a very ſevere froſt and deep ſnow this month. My thermometer was one day fourteen degrees and

[u] See *Ray*'s Travels, p. 466.

an

an half below the freezing point, within doors. The tender evergreens were injured pretty much. It was very providential that the air was ſtill, and the ground well covered with ſnow, elſe vegetation in general muſt have ſuffered prodigiouſly. There is reaſon to believe that ſome days were more ſevere than any ſince the year 1739-40.

I am, &c. &c.

LETTER XIV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, March 12, 1768.

IF ſome curious gentleman would procure the head of a fallow-deer, and have it diſſected, he would find it furniſhed with two ſpiracula, or breathing-places, beſides the noſtrils; probably analogous to the *puncta lachrymalia* in the human head. When deer are thirſty they plunge their noſes, like ſome horſes, very deep under water, while in the act of drinking, and continue them in that ſituation for a conſiderable time: but, to obviate any inconveniency, they can open two vents, one at the inner corner of each eye, having a communication with the noſe. Here ſeems to be an extraordinary proviſion of nature worthy our attention; and which has not, that I know of, been noticed by any naturaliſt. For it looks as if theſe creatures would not be ſuffocated, though both their mouths and noſtrils were ſtopped. This curious formation of the head may be of ſingular ſervice to beaſts of chaſe, by affording

affording them free reſpiration: and no doubt theſe additional noſtrils are thrown open when they are hard run[x]. Mr. *Ray* obſerved that, at *Malta*, the owners ſlit up the noſtrils of ſuch aſſes as were hard worked: for they, being naturally ſtrait or ſmall, did not admit air ſufficient to ſerve them when they travelled, or laboured, in that hot climate. And we know that grooms, and gentlemen of the turf, think large noſtrils neceſſary, and a perfection, in hunters and running horſes.

Oppian, the *Greek* poet, by the following line, ſeems to have had ſome notion that ſtags have four ſpiracula:

" Τετραδυμοι ῥινες, πισυρες πνοιησι διαυλοι."
" Quadrifidæ nares, quadruplices ad reſpirationem canales."
Opp. Cyn. Lib. ii. l. 181.

Writers, copying from one another, make *Ariſtotle* ſay that goats breathe at their ears; whereas he aſſerts juſt the contrary:—" Αλκμαιων γαρ ουκ αληθη λεγει, φαμενος αναπνειν τας αιγας " κατα τα ωτα." " *Alcmæon* does not advance what is true, when " he avers that goats breathe through their ears."—Hiſtory of Animals. Book I. chap. xi.

[x] In anſwer to this account, Mr. *Pennant* ſent me the following curious and pertinent reply. " I was much ſurpriſed to find in the *antelope* ſomething analogous to what you " mention as ſo remarkable in deer. This animal alſo has a long ſlit beneath each eye, " which can be opened and ſhut at pleaſure. On holding an orange to one, the creature " made as much uſe of thoſe orifices as of his noſtrils, applying them to the fruit, and " ſeeming to ſmell it through them."

LETTER XV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, March 30, 1768.

SOME intelligent country people have a notion that we have, in theſe parts, a ſpecies of the *genus muſtelinum*, beſides the weaſel, ſtoat, ferret, and polecat; a little reddiſh beaſt, not much bigger than a field mouſe, but much longer, which they call a *cane*. This piece of intelligence can be little depended on; but farther inquiry may be made.

A gentleman in this neighbourhood had two milkwhite rooks in one neſt. A booby of a carter, finding them before they were able to fly, threw them down and deſtroyed them, to the regret of the owner, who would have been glad to have preſerved ſuch a curioſity in his rookery. I ſaw the birds myſelf nailed againſt the end of a barn, and was ſurpriſed to find that their bills, legs, feet, and claws were milkwhite.

A ſhepherd ſaw, as he thought, ſome white larks on a down above my houſe this winter: were not theſe the *emberiza nivalis*, the ſnow-flake of the *Brit. Zool.*? No doubt they were.

A few years ago I ſaw a cock bullfinch in a cage, which had been caught in the fields after it was come to it's full colours. In about a year it began to look dingy; and, blackening every ſucceeding year, it became coal-black at the end of four. It's chief food was hempſeed. Such influence has food on the colour of animals! The pied and mottled colours of domeſticated animals are ſuppoſed to be owing to high, various, and unuſual food.

I had

I had remarked, for years, that the root of the cuckoo-pint *(arum)* was frequently ſcratched out of the dry banks of hedges, and eaten in ſevere ſnowy weather. After obſerving, with ſome exactneſs, myſelf, and getting others to do the ſame, we found it was the thruſh kind that ſearched it out. The root of the *arum* is remarkably warm and pungent.

Our flocks of female chaffinches have not yet forſaken us. The blackbirds and thruſhes are very much thinned down by that fierce weather in *January*.

In the middle of *February* I diſcovered, in my tall hedges, a little bird that raiſed my curioſity: it was of that yellow-green colour that belongs to the *ſalicaria* kind, and, I think, was ſoft-billed. It was no *parus*; and was too long and too big for the golden-crowned wren, appearing moſt like the largeſt willow-wren. It hung ſometimes with it's back downwards, but never continuing one moment in the ſame place. I ſhot at it, but it was ſo deſultory that I miſſed my aim.

I wonder that the ſtone curlew, *charadrius oedicnemus*, ſhould be mentioned by the writers as a rare bird: it abounds in all the campaign parts of *Hampſhire* and *Suſſex*, and breeds, I think, all the ſummer, having young ones, I know, very late in the autumn. Already they begin clamouring in the evening. They cannot, I think, with any propriety, be called, as they are by Mr. *Ray*, "*circa aquas verſantes*;" for with us, by day at leaſt, they haunt only the moſt dry, open, upland fields and ſheep walks, far removed from water: what they may do in the night I cannot ſay. Worms are their uſual food, but they alſo eat toads and frogs.

I can ſhew you ſome good ſpecimens of my *new mice*. *Linnæus* perhaps would call the ſpecies *mus minimus*.

LETTER XVI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, April 18, 1768.

THE hiſtory of the ſtone curlew, *charadrius oedicnemus*, is as follows. It lays it's eggs, uſually two, never more than three, on the bare ground, without any neſt, in the field; ſo that the countryman, in ſtirring his fallows, often deſtroys them. The young run immediately from the egg like partridges, &c. and are withdrawn to ſome flinty field by the dam, where they ſculk among the ſtones, which are their beſt ſecurity; for their feathers are ſo exactly of the colour of our grey ſpotted flints, that the moſt exact obſerver, unleſs he catches the eye of the young bird, may be eluded. The eggs are ſhort and round; of a dirty white, ſpotted with dark bloody blotches. Though I might not be able, juſt when I pleaſed, to procure you a bird, yet I could ſhew you them almoſt any day; and any evening you may hear them round the village, for they make a clamour which may be heard a mile. *Oedicnemus* is a moſt apt and expreſſive name for them, ſince their legs ſeem ſwoln like thoſe of a gouty man. After harveſt I have ſhot them before the pointers in turnip-fields.

I make no doubt but there are three ſpecies of the *willow-wrens*: two I know perfectly; but have not been able yet to procure the third. No two birds can differ more in their notes, and that conſtantly, than thoſe two that I am acquainted with; for the one has a joyous, eaſy, laughing note; the other a harſh loud chirp. The

The former is every way larger, and three quarters of an inch longer, and weighs two drams and an half; while the latter weighs but two: ſo the ſongſter is one fifth heavier than the chirper. The chirper (being the firſt ſummer-bird of paſſage that is heard, the wryneck ſometimes excepted) begins his two notes in the middle of *March*, and continues them through the ſpring and ſummer till the end of *Auguſt*, as appears by my journals. The legs of the larger of theſe two are fleſh-coloured; of the leſs, black.

The *graſshopper-lark* began his ſibilous note in my fields laſt *Saturday*. Nothing can be more amuſing than the whiſper of this little bird, which ſeems to be cloſe by though at an hundred yards diſtance; and, when cloſe at your ear, is ſcarce any louder than when a great way off. Had I not been a little acquainted with inſects, and known that the graſshopper kind is not yet hatched, I ſhould have hardly believed but that it had been a *locuſta* whiſpering in the buſhes. The country people laugh when you tell them that it is the note of a bird. It is a moſt artful creature, ſculking in the thickeſt part of a buſh; and will ſing at a yard diſtance, provided it be concealed. I was obliged to get a perſon to go on the other ſide of the hedge where it haunted; and then it would run, creeping like a mouſe, before us for an hundred yards together, through the bottom of the thorns; yet it would not come into fair ſight: but in a morning early, and when undiſturbed, it ſings on the top of a twig, gaping and ſhivering with it's wings. Mr. *Ray* himſelf had no knowledge of this bird, but received his account from Mr. *Johnſon*, who apparently confounds it with the *reguli non criſtati*, from which it is very diſtinct. See *Ray's Philoſ. Letters*, p. 108.

The

The fly-catcher (*ſtoparola*) has not yet appeared: it uſually breeds in my vine. The *redſtart* begins to ſing: it's note is ſhort and imperfect, but is continued till about the middle of *June*. The *willow-wrens* (the ſmaller ſort) are horrid peſts in a garden, deſtroying the peaſe, cherries, currants, &c.; and are ſo tame that a gun will not ſcare them.

A LIST *of the* SUMMER BIRDS *of* PASSAGE *diſcovered in this neighbourhood, ranged ſomewhat in the Order in which they appear:*

	Linnæi Nomina.
Smalleſt willow-wren,	*Motacilla trochilus:*
Wryneck,	*Jynx torquilla:*
Houſe-ſwallow,	*Hirundo ruſtica:*
Martin,	*Hirundo urbica:*
Sand-martin,	*Hirundo riparia:*
Cuckoo,	*Cuculus canorus:*
Nightingale,	*Motacilla luſcinia:*
Blackcap,	*Motacilla atricapilla:*
Whitethroat,	*Motacilla ſylvia:*
Middle willow-wren,	*Motacilla trochilus:*
Swift,	*Hirundo apus:*
Stone curlew,?	*Charadrius oedicnemus?*
Turtle-dove,?	*Turtur aldrovandi?*
Graſshopper-lark,	*Alauda trivialis:*
Landrail,	*Rallus crex:*
Largeſt willow-wren,	*Motacilla trochilus:*
Redſtart,	*Motacilla phœnicurus:*
Goatſucker, or fern-owl,	*Caprimulgus europæus:*
Fly-catcher,	*Muſcicapa griſola.*

My

My countrymen talk much of a bird that makes a clatter with it's bill againſt a dead bough, or ſome old pales, calling it a jar-bird. I procured one to be ſhot in the very fact; it proved to be the *ſitta europæa* (*the nuthatch.*) Mr. *Ray* ſays that the leſs ſpotted *woodpecker* does the ſame. This noiſe may be heard a furlong or more.

Now is the only time to aſcertain the ſhort-winged ſummer birds; for, when the leaf is out, there is no making any remarks on ſuch a reſtleſs tribe; and, when once the young begin to appear, it is all confuſion: there is no diſtinction of genus, ſpecies, or ſex.

In breeding-time ſnipes play over the moors, piping and humming: they always hum as they are deſcending. Is not their hum ventriloquous like that of the turkey? Some ſuſpect it is made by their wings.

This morning I ſaw the golden-crowned wren, whoſe crown glitters like burniſhed gold. It often hangs like a titmouſe, with it's back downwards.

Yours, &c. &c.

LETTER XVII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, June 18, 1768.

ON *Wedneſday* laſt arrived your agreeable letter of *June* the 10th. It gives me great ſatisfaction to find that you purſue theſe ſtudies ſtill with ſuch vigour, and are in ſuch forwardneſs with regard to reptiles and fiſhes.

The

The reptiles, few as they are, I am not acquainted with, ſo well as I could wiſh, with regard to their natural hiſtory. There is a degree of dubiouſneſs and obſcurity attending the propagation of this claſs of animals, ſomething analagous to that of the *cryptogamia* in the ſexual ſyſtem of plants: and the caſe is the ſame with regard to ſome of the fiſhes; as the eel, &c.

The method in which toads procreate and bring forth ſeems to be very much in the dark. Some authors ſay that they are viviparous: and yet *Ray* claſſes them among his oviparous animals; and is ſilent with regard to the manner of their bringing forth. Perhaps they may be ἔσω μὲν ὠοτόκοι, ἔξω δε ζωοτόκοι, as is known to be the caſe with the viper.

The copulation of frogs (or at leaſt the appearance of it; for *Swammerdam* proves that the male has no *penis intrans*) is notorious to every body: becauſe we ſee them ſticking upon each others backs for a month together in the ſpring: and yet I never ſaw, or read, of toads being obſerved in the ſame ſituation. It is ſtrange that the matter with regard to the venom of toads has not been yet ſettled. That they are not noxious to ſome animals is plain: for ducks, buzzards, owls, ſtone curlews, and ſnakes, eat them, to my knowledge, with impunity. And I well remember the time, but was not eye-witneſs to the fact (though numbers of perſons were) when a quack, at this village, ate a toad to make the country-people ſtare; afterwards he drank oil.

I have been informed alſo, from undoubted authority, that ſome ladies (ladies you will ſay of peculiar taſte) took a fancy to a toad, which they nouriſhed ſummer after ſummer, for many years, till he grew to a monſtrous ſize, with the maggots which turn to fleſh flies. The reptile uſed to come forth every evening from an hole under the garden-ſteps; and was taken up, after ſupper, on the table

table to be fed. But at laſt a tame raven, kenning him as he put forth his head, gave him ſuch a ſevere ſtroke with his horny beak as put out one eye. After this accident the creature languiſhed for ſome time and died.

I need not remind a gentleman of your extenſive reading of the excellent account there is from Mr. *Derham*, in *Ray*'s Wiſdom of God in the Creation (p. 365), concerning the migration of frogs from their breeding ponds. In this account he at once ſubverts that fooliſh opinion of their dropping from the clouds in rain; ſhewing that it is from the grateful coolneſs and moiſture of thoſe ſhowers that they are tempted to ſet out on their travels, which they defer till thoſe fall. Frogs are as yet in their tadpole ſtate; but, in a few weeks, our lanes, paths, fields, will ſwarm for a few days with myriads of thoſe emigrants, no larger than my little finger nail. *Swammerdam* gives a moſt accurate account of the method and ſituation in which the male impregnates the ſpawn of the female. How wonderful is the œconomy of Providence with regard to the limbs of ſo vile a reptile! While it is an *aquatic* it has a fiſh-like tail, and no legs: as ſoon as the legs ſprout, the tail drops off as uſeleſs, and the animal betakes itſelf to the land!

Merret, I truſt, is widely miſtaken when he advances that the *rana arborea* is an *Engliſh* reptile; it abounds in *Germany* and *Switzerland*.

It is to be remembered that the *ſalamandra aquatica* of *Ray* (the water-newt or eft) will frequently bite at the angler's bait, and is often caught on his hook. I uſed to take it for granted that the *ſalamandra aquatica* was hatched, lived, and died, in the water. But *John Ellis*, Eſq. F. R. S. (the coralline *Ellis*) aſſerts, in a letter to the Royal Society, dated *June* the 5th, 1766, in his ac-

count of the *mud inguana*, an amphibious *bipes* from *South Carolina*; that the water-eft, or newt, is only the *larva* of the land-eft, as tadpoles are of frogs. Leſt I ſhould be ſuſpected to miſunderſtand his meaning, I ſhall give it in his own words. Speaking of the *opercula* or coverings to the gills of the *mud inguana*, he proceeds to ſay that "The form of theſe pennated coverings "approach very near to what I have ſome time ago obſerved in "the *larva* or *aquatic* ſtate of our *Engliſh lacerta*, known by the "name of eft, or newt; which ſerve them for coverings to their "gills, and for fins to ſwim with while in this ſtate; and which "they loſe, as well as the fins of their tails, when they *change* their "ſtate and *become land animals*, as I have obſerved, by keeping "them alive for ſome time myſelf."

Linnæus, in his *Syſtema Naturæ*, hints at what Mr. *Ellis* advances more than once.

Providence has been ſo indulgent to us as to allow of but one venomous reptile of the ſerpent kind in theſe kingdoms, and that is the viper. As you propoſe the good of mankind to be an object of your publications, you will not omit to mention common ſallad-oil as a ſovereign remedy againſt the bite of the viper. As to the blind worm *(anguis fragilis*, ſo called becauſe it ſnaps in ſunder with a ſmall blow), I have found, on examination, that it is perfectly innocuous. A neighbouring yeoman (to whom I am indebted for ſome good hints) killed and opened a female viper about the twenty-ſeventh of *May*: he found her filled with a chain of eleven eggs, about the ſize of thoſe of a blackbird; but none of them were advanced ſo far towards a ſtate of maturity as to contain any rudiments of young. Though they are oviparous, yet they are viviparous alſo, hatching their young within their bellies, and then bringing them forth. Whereas ſnakes lay

chains

chains of eggs every ſummer in my melon beds, in ſpite of all that my people can do to prevent them; which eggs do not hatch till the ſpring following, as I have often experienced. Several intelligent folks aſſure me that they have ſeen the viper open her mouth and admit her helpleſs young down her throat on ſudden ſurpriſes, juſt as the female opoſſum does her brood into the pouch under her belly, upon the like emergencies; and yet the *London* viper-catchers inſiſt on it, to Mr. *Barrington*, that no ſuch thing ever happens. The ſerpent kind eat, I believe, but once in a year; or, rather, but only juſt at one ſeaſon of the year. Country people talk much of a water-ſnake, but, I am pretty ſure, without any reaſon; for the common ſnake (*coluber natrix*) delights much to ſport in the water, perhaps with a view to procure frogs and other food.

I cannot well gueſs how you are to make out your twelve ſpecies of reptiles, unleſs it be by the various ſpecies, or rather varieties, of our *lacerti*, of which *Ray* enumerates five. I have not had opportunity of aſcertaining theſe; but remember well to have ſeen, formerly, ſeveral beautiful green *lacerti* on the ſunny ſandbanks near *Farnham*, in *Surrey*; and *Ray* admits there are ſuch in *Ireland*.

LETTER XVIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, July 27, 1768.

I RECEIVED your obliging and communicative letter of *June* the 28th, while I was on a viſit at a gentleman's houſe, where I had neither books to turn to, nor leiſure to ſit down, to return you an anſwer to many queries, which I wanted to reſolve in the beſt manner that I am able.

A perſon, by my order, has ſearched our brooks, but could find no ſuch fiſh as the *gaſteroſteus pungitius:* he found the *gaſteroſteus aculeatus* in plenty. This morning, in a baſket, I packed a little earthen pot full of wet moſs, and in it ſome ſtickle-backs, male and female; the females big with ſpawn: ſome lamperns; ſome bulls heads; but I could procure no minnows. This baſket will be in *Fleet-ſtreet* by eight this evening; ſo I hope *Mazel* will have them freſh and fair to-morrow morning. I gave ſome directions, in a letter, to what particulars the engraver ſhould be attentive.

Finding, while I was on a viſit, that I was within a reaſonable diſtance of *Ambreſbury*, I ſent a ſervant over to that town, and procured ſeveral living ſpecimens of loaches, which he brought, ſafe and briſk, in a glaſs decanter. They were taken in the gullies that were cut for watering the meadows. From theſe fiſhes (which meaſured from two to four inches in length) I took the following deſcription: "The loach, in it's general aſpect, has "a pellucid appearance: it's back is mottled with irregular "collections of ſmall black dots, not reaching much below the "*linea*

" *linea lateralis*, as are the back and tail fins: a black line runs " from each eye down to the nose; it's belly is of a silvery " white; the upper jaw projects beyond the lower, and is sur- " rounded with six feelers, three on each side: it's pectoral fins " are large, it's ventral much smaller; the fin behind it's anus " small; it's dorsal-fin large, containing eight spines; it's tail, " where it joins to the tail-fin, *remarkably broad*, without any " taperness, so as to be characteristic of this genus: the tail-fin " is broad, and square at the end. From the breadth and mus- " cular strength of the tail it appears to be an active nimble " fish."

In my visit I was not very far from *Hungerford*, and did not forget to make some inquiries concerning the wonderful method of curing cancers by means of toads. Several intelligent persons, both gentry and clergy, do, I find, give a great deal of credit to what was asserted in the papers: and I myself dined with a clergyman who seemed to be persuaded that what is related is matter of fact; but, when I came to attend to his account, I thought I discerned circumstances which did not a little invalidate the woman's story of the manner in which she came by her skill. She says of herself " that, labouring under a virulent cancer, she " went to some church where there was a vast crowd: on going " into a pew, she was accosted by a strange clergyman; who, " after expressing compassion for her situation, told her that if she " would make such an application of living toads as is mentioned " she would be well." Now is it likely that this unknown gentleman should express so much tenderness for this single sufferer, and not feel any for the many thousands that daily languish under this terrible disorder? Would he not have made use of this invaluable nostrum for his own emolument; or, at least, by some

ſome means of publication or other, have found a method of making it public for the good of mankind? In ſhort, this woman (as it appears to me) having ſet up for a cancer-doctreſs, finds it expedient to amuſe the country with this dark and myſterious relation.

The water-eft has not, that I can diſcern, the leaſt appearance of any gills; for want of which it is continually riſing to the ſurface of the water to take in freſh air. I opened a big-bellied one indeed, and found it full of ſpawn. Not that this circumſtance at all invalidates the aſſertion that they are *larvæ*: for the *larvæ* of inſects are full of eggs, which they exclude the inſtant they enter their laſt ſtate. The water-eft is continually climbing over the brims of the veſſel, within which we keep it in water, and wandering away: and people every ſummer ſee numbers crawling, out of the pools where they are hatched, up the dry banks. There are varieties of them, differing in colour; and ſome have fins up their tail and back, and ſome have not.

LETTER XIX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Aug. 17, 1768.

I HAVE now, paſt diſpute, made out three diſtinct ſpecies of the willow-wrens *(motacillæ trochili)* which *conſtantly* and *invariably* uſe diſtinct notes. But, at the ſame time, I am obliged to confeſs that I know nothing of your willow-lark[y]. In my letter

[y] *Brit. Zool.* edit. 1776, octavo, p. 381.

of

of *April* the 18th, I had told you peremptorily that I knew your willow-lark, but had not ſeen it then: but, when I came to procure it, it proved, in all reſpects, a very *motacilla trochilus*; only that it is a ſize larger than the two other, and the yellow-green of the whole upper part of the body is more vivid, and the belly of a clearer white. I have ſpecimens of the three ſorts now lying before me; and can diſcern that there are three gradations of ſizes, and that the leaſt has black legs, and the other two fleſh-coloured ones. The yelloweſt bird is conſiderably the largeſt, and has it's quill-feathers and ſecondary feathers tipped with white, which the others have not. This laſt haunts only the tops of trees in high beechen woods, and makes a ſibilous graſshopper-like noiſe, now and then, at ſhort intervals, ſhivering a little with it's wings when it ſings; and is, I make no doubt now, the *regulus non criſtatus* of *Ray*; which he ſays "*cantat voce ſtridulâ locuſtæ.*" Yet this great ornithologiſt never ſuſpected that there were three ſpecies.

LETTER XX.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE, October 8, 1768.

IT is, I find, in *zoology* as it is in *botany:* all nature is ſo full, that that diſtrict produces the greateſt variety which is the moſt examined. Several birds, which are ſaid to belong to the north only, are, it ſeems, often in the ſouth. I have diſcovered this ſummer

ſummer three ſpecies of birds with us, which writers mention as only to be ſeen in the northern counties. The firſt that was brought me (on the 14th of *May*), was the ſandpiper, *tringa hypoleucus:* it was a cock bird, and haunted the banks of ſome ponds near the village; and, as it had a companion, doubtleſs intended to have bred near that water. Beſides, the owner has told me ſince, that, on recollection, he has ſeen ſome of the ſame birds round his ponds in former ſummers.

The next bird that I procured (on the 21ſt of *May*) was a male red-backed butcher bird, *lanius collurio*. My neighbour, who ſhot it, ſays that it might eaſily have eſcaped his notice, had not the outcries and chattering of the white-throats and other ſmall birds drawn his attention to the buſh where it was: it's craw was filled with the legs and wings of beetles.

The next rare birds (which were procured for me laſt week) were ſome ring-ouſels, *turdi torquati*.

This week twelve months a gentleman from *London*, being with us, was amuſing himſelf with a gun, and found, he told us, on an old yew hedge where there were berries, ſome birds like blackbirds, with rings of white round their necks: a neighbouring farmer alſo at the ſame time obſerved the ſame; but, as no ſpecimens were procured, little notice was taken. I mentioned this circumſtance to you in my letter of *November* the 4th, 1767: (you however paid but ſmall regard to what I ſaid, as I had not ſeen theſe birds myſelf): but laſt week the aforeſaid farmer, ſeeing a large flock, twenty or thirty of theſe birds, ſhot two cocks and two hens: and ſays, on recollection, that he remembers to have obſerved theſe birds again laſt ſpring, about *Lady-day*, as it were, on their return to the north. Now perhaps theſe ouſels are not the ouſels of the north of *England*, but belong to the more northern parts of *Europe*;

Europe; and may retire before the exceſſive rigor of the froſts in thoſe parts; and return to breed in the ſpring, when the cold abates. If this be the caſe, here is diſcovered a new bird of winter paſſage, concerning whoſe migrations the writers are ſilent: but if theſe birds ſhould prove the ouſels of the north of *England*, then here is a migration diſcloſed within our own kingdom never before remarked. It does not yet appear whether they retire beyond the bounds of our iſland to the ſouth; but it is moſt probable that they uſually do, or elſe one cannot ſuppoſe that they would have continued ſo long unnoticed in the ſouthern counties. The ouſel is larger than a blackbird, and feeds on haws; but laſt autumn (when there were no haws) it fed on yew-berries: in the ſpring it feeds on ivy-berries, which ripen only at that ſeaſon, in *March* and *April*.

I muſt not omit to tell you (as you have been ſo lately on the ſtudy of reptiles) that my people, every now and then of late, draw up with a bucket of water from my well, which is 63 feet deep, a large black warty lizard with a fin-tail and yellow belly. How they firſt came down at that depth, and how they were ever to have got out thence without help, is more than I am able to ſay.

My thanks are due to you for your trouble and care in the examination of a buck's head. As far as your diſcoveries reach at preſent, they ſeem much to corroborate my ſuſpicions; and I hope Mr. —— may find reaſon to give his deciſion in my favour; and then, I think, we may advance this extraordinary proviſion of nature as a new inſtance of the wiſdom of God in the creation.

As yet I have not quite done with my hiſtory of the *oedicnemus*, or ſtone-curlew; for I ſhall deſire a gentleman in *Suſſex* (near whoſe houſe theſe birds congregate in vaſt flocks in the autumn)

to obſerve nicely when they leave him, (if they do leave him) and when they return again in the ſpring: I was with this gentleman lately, and ſaw ſeveral ſingle birds.

LETTER XXI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Nov. 28, 1768.

WITH regard to the *oedicnemus*, or ſtone-curlew, I intend to write very ſoon to my friend near *Chicheſter*, in whoſe neighbourhood theſe birds ſeem moſt to abound; and ſhall urge him to take particular notice when they begin to congregate, and afterwards to watch them moſt narrowly whether they do not withdraw themſelves during the dead of the winter. When I have obtained information with reſpect to this circumſtance, I ſhall have finiſhed my hiſtory of the *ſtone-curlew*; which I hope will prove to your ſatisfaction, as it will be, I truſt, very near the truth. This gentleman, as he occupies a large farm of his own, and is abroad early and late, will be a very proper ſpy upon the motions of theſe birds: and beſides, as I have prevailed on him to buy the Naturaliſt's Journal (with which he is much delighted), I ſhall expect that he will be very exact in his dates. It is very extraordinary, as you obſerve, that a bird ſo common with us ſhould never ſtraggle to you.

And here will be the propereſt place to mention, while I think of it, an anecdote which the above-mentioned gentleman told me when

when I was laſt at his houſe; which was that, in a warren joining to his outlet, many daws *(corvi monedulæ)* build every year in the rabbit-burrows under ground. The way he and his brothers uſed to take their neſts, while they were boys, was by liſtening at the mouths of the holes; and, if they heard the young ones cry, they twiſted the neſt out with a forked ſtick. Some water-fowls (*viz.* the puffins) breed, I know, in that manner; but I ſhould never have ſuſpected the daws of building in holes on the flat ground.

Another very unlikely ſpot is made uſe of by daws as a place to breed in, and that is *Stonehenge*. Theſe birds depoſit their neſts in the interſtices between the upright and the impoſt ſtones of that amazing work of antiquity: which circumſtance alone ſpeaks the prodigious height of the upright ſtones, that they ſhould be tall enough to ſecure thoſe neſts from the annoyance of ſhepherd-boys, who are always idling round that place.

One of my neighbours laſt *Saturday*, *November* the 26th, ſaw a martin in a ſheltered bottom: the ſun ſhone warm, and the bird was hawking briſkly after flies. I am now perfectly ſatisfied that they do not all leave this iſland in the winter.

You judge very right, I think, in ſpeaking with reſerve and caution concerning the cures done by toads: for, let people advance what they will on ſuch ſubjects, yet there is ſuch a propenſity in mankind towards deceiving and being deceived, that one cannot ſafely relate any thing from common report, eſpecially in print, without expreſſing ſome degree of doubt and ſuſpicion.

Your approbation, with regard to my new diſcovery of the migration of the ring-ouſel, gives me ſatisfaction; and I find you concur with me in ſuſpecting that they are foreign birds which viſit us. You will be ſure, I hope, not to omit to make inquiry whether your ring-ouſels leave your rocks in the autumn. What

puzzles me moſt, is the very ſhort ſtay they make with us; for in about three weeks they are all gone. I ſhall be very curious to remark whether they will call on us at their return in the ſpring, as they did laſt year.

I want to be better informed with regard to ichthyology. If fortune had ſettled me near the ſea-ſide, or near ſome great river, my natural propenſity would ſoon have urged me to have made myſelf acquainted with their productions: but as I have lived moſtly in inland parts, and in an upland diſtrict, my knowledge of fiſhes extends little farther than to thoſe common ſorts which our brooks and lakes produce.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Jan. 2, 1769.

As to the peculiarity of jackdaws building with us under the ground in rabbit-burrows, you have, in part, hit upon the reaſon; for, in reality, there are hardly any towers or ſteeples in all this country. And perhaps, *Norfolk* excepted, *Hampſhire* and *Suſſex* are as meanly furniſhed with churches as almoſt any counties in the kingdom. We have many livings of two or three hundred pounds a year, whoſe houſes of worſhip make little better appearance than dovecots. When I firſt ſaw *Northamptonſhire*, *Cambridgeſhire* and

and *Huntingdonſhire*, and the fens of *Lincolnſhire*, I was amazed at the number of ſpires which preſented themſelves in every point of view. As an admirer of proſpects, I have reaſon to lament this want in my own country; for ſuch objects are very neceſſary ingredients in an elegant landſcape.

What you mention with reſpect to reclaimed toads raiſes my curioſity. An ancient author, though no naturaliſt, has well remarked that "*Every kind of beaſts, and of birds, and of ſerpents, and* "*things in the ſea, is tamed, and hath been tamed, of mankind*[z]."

It is a ſatisfaction to me to find that a green lizard has actually been procured for you in *Devonſhire*; becauſe it corroborates my diſcovery, which I made many years ago, of the ſame ſort, on a ſunny ſandbank near *Farnham*, in *Surrey*. I am well acquainted with the ſouth hams of *Devonſhire*; and can ſuppoſe that diſtrict, from it's ſoutherly ſituation, to be a proper habitation for ſuch animals in their beſt colours.

Since the ring-ouſels of your vaſt mountains do certainly not forſake them againſt winter, our ſuſpicions that thoſe which viſit this neighbourhood about *Michaelmas* are not *Engliſh* birds, but driven from the more northern parts of *Europe* by the froſts, are ſtill more reaſonable; and it will be worth your pains to endeavour to trace from whence they come, and to inquire why they make ſo very ſhort a ſtay.

In your account of your error with regard to the two ſpecies of herons, you incidentally gave me great entertainment in your deſcription of the heronry at *Creſſi-hall*; which is a curioſity I never could manage to ſee. Fourſcore neſts of ſuch a bird on one tree is a rarity which I would ride half as many miles to have a

[z] *James*, chap. iii. 7.

ſight

ſight of. Pray be ſure to tell me in your next whoſe ſeat *Creſſi-hall* is, and near what town it lies[a]. I have often thought that thoſe vaſt extents of fens have never been ſufficiently explored. If half a dozen gentlemen, furniſhed with a good ſtrength of water-ſpaniels, were to beat them over for a week, they would certainly find more ſpecies.

There is no bird, I believe, whoſe manners I have ſtudied more than that of the *caprimulgus* (the goat-ſucker), as it is a wonderful and curious creature: but I have always found that though ſometimes it may chatter as it flies, as I know it does, yet in general it utters it's jarring note ſitting on a bough; and I have for many an half hour watched it as it ſat with it's under mandible quivering, and particularly this ſummer. It perches uſually on a bare twig, with it's head lower than it's tail, in an attitude well expreſſed by your draughtſman in the folio *Britiſh Zoology*. This bird is moſt punctual in beginning it's ſong exactly at the cloſe of day; ſo exactly that I have known it ſtrike up more than once or twice juſt at the report of the *Portſmouth* evening gun, which we can hear when the weather is ſtill. It appears to me paſt all doubt that it's notes are formed by organic impulſe, by the powers of the parts of it's windpipe, formed for ſound, juſt as cats pur. You will credit me, I hope, when I aſſure you that, as my neighbours were aſſembled in an [b] hermitage on the ſide of a ſteep hill where we drink tea, one of theſe churn-owls came and ſettled on the croſs of that little ſtraw edifice and began to chatter, and continued his note for many minutes: and we were all ſtruck with wonder to find that the organs of that little animal, when put in motion, gave a ſenſible vibration to the whole building! This

[a] *Creſſi-hall* is near *Spalding*, in *Lincolnſhire*.

[b] See the vignette in this book.

bird

bird alſo ſometimes makes a ſmall ſqueak, repeated four or five times; and I have obſerved that to happen when the cock has been purſuing the hen in a toying way through the boughs of a tree.

It would not be at all ſtrange if your bat, which you have procured, ſhould prove a new one, ſince five ſpecies have been found in a neighbouring kingdom. The great ſort that I mentioned is certainly a non-deſcript: I ſaw but one this ſummer, and that I had no opportunity of taking.

Your account of the *Indian-graſs* was entertaining. I am no angler myſelf; but inquiring of thoſe that are, what they ſuppoſed that part of their tackle to be made of? they replied "of the in-"teſtines of a ſilkworm."

Though I muſt not pretend to great ſkill in entomology, yet I cannot ſay that I am ignorant of that kind of knowledge: I may now and then perhaps be able to furniſh you with a little information.

The vaſt rains ceaſed with us much about the ſame time as with you, and ſince we have had delicate weather. Mr. *Barker*, who has meaſured the rain for more than thirty years, ſays, in a late letter, that more has fallen this year than in any he ever attended to; though, from *July* 1763 to *January* 1764, more fell than in any ſeven months of this year.

LETTER

LETTER XXIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, February 28, 1769.

IT is not improbable that the *Guernſey* lizard and our green lizards may be ſpecifically the ſame; all that I know is, that, when ſome years ago many *Guernſey* lizards were turned looſe in *Pembroke* college garden, in the univerſity of *Oxford*, they lived a great while, and ſeemed to enjoy themſelves very well, but never bred. Whether this circumſtance will prove any thing either way I ſhall not pretend to ſay.

I return you thanks for your account of *Creſſi-hall*; but recollect, not without regret, that in *June* 1746 I was viſiting for a week together at *Spalding*, without ever being told that ſuch a curioſity was juſt at hand. Pray ſend me word in your next what ſort of tree it is that contains ſuch a quantity of herons' neſts; and whether the heronry conſiſts of a whole grove or wood, or only of a few trees.

It gave me ſatisfaction to find we accorded ſo well about the *caprimulgus*: all I contended for was to prove that it often chatters ſitting as well as flying; and therefore the noiſe was voluntary, and from organic impulſe, and not from the reſiſtance of the air againſt the hollow of it's mouth and throat.

If ever I ſaw any thing like actual migration, it was laſt *Michaelmas-day*. I was travelling, and out early in the morning: at firſt there was a vaſt fog; but, by the time that I was got ſeven or eight miles from home towards the coaſt, the ſun broke out into a delicate

delicate warm day. We were then on a large heath or common, and I could diſcern, as the miſt began to break away, great numbers of ſwallows (*hirundines ruſticæ*) cluſtering on the ſtunted ſhrubs and buſhes, as if they had rooſted there all night. As ſoon as the air became clear and pleaſant they all were on the wing at once; and, by a placid and eaſy flight, proceeded on ſouthward towards the ſea: after this I did not ſee any more flocks, only now and then a ſtraggler.

I cannot agree with thoſe perſons that aſſert that the ſwallow kind diſappear ſome and ſome gradually, as they come, for the bulk of them ſeem to withdraw at once: only ſome ſtragglers ſtay behind a long while, and do never, there is the greateſt reaſon to believe, leave this iſland. Swallows ſeem to lay themſelves up, and to come forth in a warm day, as bats do continually of a warm evening, after they have diſappeared for weeks. For a very reſpectable gentleman aſſured me that, as he was walking with ſome friends under *Merton-wall* on a remarkably hot noon, either in the laſt week in *December* or the firſt week in *January*, he eſpied three or four ſwallows huddled together on the moulding of one of the windows of that college. I have frequently remarked that ſwallows are ſeen later at *Oxford* than elſewhere: is it owing to the vaſt maſſy buildings of that place, to the many waters round it, or to what elſe?

When I uſed to riſe in a morning laſt autumn, and ſee the ſwallows and martins cluſtering on the chimnies and thatch of the neighbouring cottages, I could not help being touched with a ſecret delight, mixed with ſome degree of mortification: with delight, to obſerve with how much ardour and punctuality thoſe poor little birds obeyed the ſtrong impulſe towards migration, or hiding, imprinted on their minds by their great Creator; and with ſome degree of mortification, when I reflected that, after all our

pains and inquiries, we are yet not quite certain to what regions they do migrate; and are ſtill farther embaraſſed to find that ſome do not actually migrate at all.

Theſe reflections made ſo ſtrong an impreſſion on my imagination, that they became productive of a compoſition that may perhaps amuſe you for a quarter of an hour when next I have the honour of writing to you.

LETTER XXIV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, May 29, 1769.

THE *ſcarabæus fullo* I know very well, having ſeen it in collections; but have never been able to diſcover one wild in it's natural ſtate. Mr. *Banks* told me he thought it might be found on the ſeacoaſt.

On the thirteenth of *April* I went to the ſheep-down, where the *ring-ouſels* have been obſerved to make their appearance at ſpring and fall, in their way perhaps to the north or ſouth; and was much pleaſed to ſee three birds about the uſual ſpot. We ſhot a cock and a hen; they were plump and in high condition. The hen had but very ſmall rudiments of eggs within her, which proves they are late breeders; whereas thoſe ſpecies of the thruſh kind that remain with us the whole year have fledged young before that time. In their crops was nothing very diſtinguiſhable, but ſomewhat that ſeemed like blades of vegetables nearly digeſted. In autumn

autumn they feed on haws and yew-berries, and in the ſpring on ivy-berries. I dreſſed one of theſe birds, and found it juicy and well flavoured. It is remarkable that they make but a few days ſtay in their ſpring viſit, but reſt near a fortnight at *Michaelmas*. Theſe birds, from the obſervations of three ſprings and two autumns, are moſt punctual in their return; and exhibit a new migration unnoticed by the writers, who ſuppoſed they never were to be ſeen in any of the ſouthern counties.

One of my neighbours lately brought me a new *ſalicaria*, which at firſt I ſuſpected might have proved your willow-lark[c], but, on a nicer examination, it anſwered much better to the deſcription of that ſpecies which you ſhot at *Reveſby*, in *Lincolnſhire*. My bird I deſcribe thus: "It is a ſize leſs than the graſshopper-"lark; the head, back, and coverts of the wings, of a duſky "brown, without thoſe dark ſpots of the graſshopper-lark; over "each eye is a milkwhite ſtroke; the chin and throat are white, "and the under parts of a yellowiſh white; the rump is tawny, "and the feathers of the tail ſharp-pointed; the bill is duſky and "ſharp, and the legs are duſky; the hinder claw long and "crooked." The perſon that ſhot it ſays that it ſung ſo like a reed-ſparrow that he took it for one; and that it ſings all night: but this account merits farther inquiry. For my part, I ſuſpect it is a ſecond ſort of *locuſtella*, hinted at by Dr. *Derham* in *Ray's Letters*: ſee p. 108. He alſo procured me a graſshopper-lark.

The queſtion that you put with regard to thoſe genera of animals that are peculiar to *America*, viz. how they came there, and whence? is too puzzling for me to anſwer; and yet ſo obvious as often to have ſtruck me with wonder. If one looks into the writers

[c] For this *ſalicaria* ſee letter *Auguſt* 30, 1769.

on that ſubject little ſatisfaction is to be found. Ingenious men will readily advance plauſible arguments to ſupport whatever theory they ſhall chuſe to maintain; but then the misfortune is, every one's hypotheſis is each as good as another's, ſince they are all founded on conjecture. The late writers of this ſort, in whom may be ſeen all the arguments of thoſe that have gone before, as I remember, ſtock *America* from the weſtern coaſt of *Africa* and the ſouth of *Europe*; and then break down the Iſthmus that bridged over the *Atlantic*. But this is making uſe of a violent piece of machinery: it is a difficulty worthy of the interpoſition of a god! "*Incredulus odi*".

TO THOMAS PENNANT, ESQUIRE.

THE NATURALIST's SUMMER-EVENING WALK.

——— equidem credo, quia ſit divinitus illis
Ingenium. VIRG. GEORG.

WHEN day declining ſheds a milder gleam,
What time the may-fly[d] haunts the pool or ſtream;
When the ſtill owl ſkims round the graſſy mead,
What time the timorous hare limps forth to feed;

[d] The angler's may-fly, the *ephemera vulgata Linn.* comes forth from it's aurelia ſtate, and emerges out of the water about ſix in the evening, and dies about eleven at night, determining the date of it's fly ſtate in about five or ſix hours. They uſually begin to appear about the 4th of *June*, and continue in ſucceſſion for near a fortnight. See *Swammerdam, Derham, Scopoli*, &c.

Then

Then be the time to ſteal adown the vale,
And liſten to the vagrant[e] cuckoo's tale;
To hear the clamorous[f] curlew call his mate,
Or the ſoft quail his tender pain relate;
To ſee the ſwallow ſweep the dark'ning plain
Belated, to ſupport her infant train;
To mark the ſwift in rapid giddy ring
Daſh round the ſteeple, unſubdu'd of wing:
Amuſive birds!—ſay where your hid retreat
When the froſt rages and the tempeſts beat;
Whence your return, by ſuch nice inſtinct led,
When ſpring, ſoft ſeaſon, lifts her bloomy head?
Such baffled ſearches mock man's prying pride,
The GOD of NATURE is your ſecret guide!

While deep'ning ſhades obſcure the face of day
To yonder bench leaf-ſhelter'd let us ſtray,
'Till blended objects fail the ſwimming ſight,
And all the fading landſcape ſinks in night;
To hear the drowſy dor come bruſhing by
With buzzing wing, or the ſhrill[g] cricket cry;
To ſee the feeding bat glance through the wood;
To catch the diſtant falling of the flood;
While o'er the cliff th' awaken'd churn-owl hung
Through the ſtill gloom protracts his chattering ſong;
While high in air, and pois'd upon his wings,
Unſeen, the ſoft enamour'd[h] woodlark ſings:

[e] Vagrant cuckoo; ſo called becauſe, being tied down by no incubation or attendance about the nutrition of it's young, it wanders without control.

[f] *Charadrius oedicnemus.*

[g] *Gryllus campeſtris.*

[h] In hot ſummer nights woodlarks ſoar to a prodigious height and hang ſinging in the air.

Theſe,

Theſe, NATURE's works, the curious mind employ,
Inſpire a ſoothing melancholy joy:
As fancy warms, a pleaſing kind of pain
Steals o'er the cheek, and thrills the creeping vein!
Each rural ſight, each ſound, each ſmell, combine;
The tinkling ſheep-bell, or the breath of kine;
The new-mown hay that ſcents the ſwelling breeze,
Or cottage-chimney ſmoking through the trees.
The chilling night-dews fall:—away, retire;
For ſee, the glow-worm lights her amorous fire[i]!
Thus, e'er night's veil had half obſcur'd the ſky,
Th' impatient damſel hung her lamp on high:
True to the ſignal, by love's meteor led,
Leander haſten'd to his Hero's bed[k].

I am, &c.

LETTER XXV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Aug. 30, 1769.

IT gives me ſatisfaction to find that my account of the *ouſel migration* pleaſes you. You put a very ſhrewd queſtion when you aſk me how I know that their autumnal migration is ſouthward?

[i] The light of the female glow-worm (as ſhe often crawls up the ſtalk of a graſs to make herſelf more conſpicuous) is a ſignal to the male, which is a ſlender duſky *ſcarabæus*.

[k] See the ſtory of *Hero* and *Leander*.

Was

Was not candour and openneſs the very life of natural hiſtory, I ſhould paſs over this query juſt as a ſly commentator does over a crabbed paſſage in a claſſic; but common ingenuouſneſs obliges me to confeſs, not without ſome degree of ſhame, that I only reaſoned in that caſe from analogy. For as all other autumnal birds migrate from the northward to us, to partake of our milder winters, and return to the northward again when the rigorous cold abates, ſo I concluded that the ring-ouſels did the ſame, as well as their congeners the fieldfares; and eſpecially as ring-ouſels are known to haunt cold mountainous countries: but I have good reaſon to ſuſpect ſince that they may come to us from the weſtward; becauſe I hear, from very good authority, that they breed on *Dartmore*; and that they forſake that wild diſtrict about the time that our viſitors appear, and do not return till late in the ſpring.

I have taken a great deal of pains about your *ſalicaria* and mine, with a white ſtroke over it's eye and a tawny rump. I have ſurveyed it alive and dead, and have procured ſeveral ſpecimens; and am perfectly perſuaded myſelf (and truſt you will ſoon be convinced of the ſame) that it is no more nor leſs than the *paſſer arundinaceus minor* of *Ray*. This bird, by ſome means or other, ſeems to be entirely omitted in the *Britiſh Zoology*; and one reaſon probably was becauſe it is ſo ſtrangely claſſed in *Ray*, who ranges it among his *picis affines*. It ought no doubt to have gone among his *aviculæ caudâ unicolore*, and among your ſlender-billed ſmall birds of the ſame diviſion. *Linnæus* might with great propriety have put it into his genus of *motacilla*; and the *motacilla ſalicaria* of his *fauna ſuecica* ſeems to come the neareſt to it. It is no uncommon bird, haunting the ſides of ponds and rivers where there is covert, and the reeds and ſedges of moors. The country people in ſome places call it the *ſedge-bird*. It ſings inceſſantly night and day

day during the breeding-time, imitating the note of a ſparrow, a ſwallow, a ſky-lark; and has a ſtrange hurrying manner in it's ſong. My ſpecimens correſpond moſt minutely to the deſcription of your *fen ſalicaria* ſhot near *Reveſby*. Mr. *Ray* has given an excellent characteriſtic of it when he ſays, "*Roſtrum & pedes in "hâc aviculâ multò majores ſunt quâm pro corporis ratione.*" See letter *May* 29, 1769.

I have got you the egg of an *oedicnemus*, or ſtone-curlew, which was picked up in a fallow on the naked ground: there were two; but the finder inadvertently cruſhed one with his foot before he ſaw them.

When I wrote to you laſt year on reptiles, I wiſh I had not forgot to mention the faculty that ſnakes have of ſtinking *ſe defendendo*. I knew a gentleman who kept a tame ſnake, which was in it's perſon as ſweet as any animal while in good humour and unalarmed; but as ſoon as a ſtranger, or a dog or cat, came in, it fell to hiſſing, and filled the room with ſuch nauſeous effluvia as rendered it hardly ſupportable. Thus the ſqunck, or ſtonck, of *Ray's Synop. Quadr.* is an innocuous and ſweet animal; but, when preſſed hard by dogs and men, it can eject ſuch a moſt peſtilent and fetid ſmell and excrement, that nothing can be more horrible.

A gentleman ſent me lately a fine ſpecimen of the *lanius minor cineraſcens cum maculâ in ſcapulis albâ, Raii*; which is a bird that, at the time of your publiſhing your two firſt volumes of *Britiſh Zoology*, I find you had not ſeen. You have deſcribed it well from *Edwards*'s drawing.

LETTER

LETTER XXVI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, December 8, 1769.

I WAS much gratified by your communicative letter on your return from *Scotland*, where you ſpent, I find, ſome conſiderable time, and gave yourſelf good room to examine the natural curioſities of that extenſive kingdom, both thoſe of the iſlands, as well as thoſe of the highlands. The uſual bane of ſuch expeditions is hurry; becauſe men ſeldom allot themſelves half the time they ſhould do: but, fixing on a day for their return, poſt from place to place, rather as if they were on a journey that required diſpatch, than as philoſophers inveſtigating the works of nature. You muſt have made, no doubt, many diſcoveries, and laid up a good fund of materials for a future edition of the *Britiſh Zoology*; and will have no reaſon to repent that you have beſtowed ſo much pains on a part of *Great-Britian* that perhaps was never ſo well examined before.

It has always been matter of wonder to me that fieldfares, which are ſo congenerous to thruſhes and blackbirds, ſhould never chuſe to breed in *England:* but that they ſhould not think even the highlands cold and northerly, and ſequeſtered enough, is a circumſtance ſtill more ſtrange and wonderful. The ring-ouſel, you find, ſtays in *Scotland* the whole year round; ſo that we have reaſon to conclude that thoſe migrators that viſit us for a ſhort ſpace every autumn do not come from thence.

And here, I think, will be the proper place to mention that thoſe birds were moſt punctual again in their migration this autumn, appearing, as before, about the 30th of *September:* but their flocks were larger than common, and their ſtay protracted ſomewhat beyond the uſual time. If they came to ſpend the whole winter with us, as ſome of their congeners do, and then left us, as they do, in ſpring, I ſhould not be ſo much ſtruck with the occurrence, ſince it would be ſimilar to that of the other winter birds of paſſage; but when I ſee them for a fortnight at *Michaelmas*, and again for about a week in the middle of *April*, I am ſeized with wonder, and long to be informed whence theſe travellers come, and whither they go, ſince they ſeem to uſe our hills merely as an inn or baiting place.

Your account of the greater brambling, or ſnow-fleck, is very amuſing; and ſtrange it is that ſuch a ſhort-winged bird ſhould delight in ſuch perilous voyages over the northern ocean! Some country people in the winter time have every now and then told me that they have ſeen two or three white larks on our downs; but, on conſidering the matter, I begin to ſuſpect that theſe are ſome ſtragglers of the birds we are talking of, which ſometimes perhaps may rove ſo far to the ſouthward.

It pleaſes me to find that white hares are ſo frequent on the *Scottiſh* mountains, and eſpecially as you inform me that it is a diſtinct ſpecies; for the quadrupeds of *Britain* are ſo few, that every new ſpecies is a great acquiſition.

The eagle-owl, could it be proved to belong to us, is ſo majeſtic a bird, that it would grace our *fauna* much. I never was informed before where wild-geeſe are known to breed.

You admit, I find, that I have proved your *ſen-ſalicaria* to be the leſſer reed-ſparrow of *Ray:* and I think you may be ſecure that

that I am right; for I took very particular pains to clear up that matter, and had ſome fair ſpecimens; but, as they were not well preſerved, they are decayed already. You will, no doubt, inſert it in it's proper place in your next edition. Your additional plates will much improve your work.

De Buffon, I know, has deſcribed the water ſhrew-mouſe: but ſtill I am pleaſed to find you have diſcovered it in *Lincolnſhire*, for the reaſon I have given in the article of the white hare.

As a neighbour was lately plowing in a dry chalky field, far removed from any water, he turned out a water-rat, that was curiouſly laid up in an *hybernaculum* artificially formed of graſs and leaves. At one end of the *burrow* lay above a gallon of potatoes regularly ſtowed, on which it was to have ſupported itſelf for the winter. But the difficulty with me is how this *amphibius mus* came to fix it's winter ſtation at ſuch a diſtance from the water. Was it determined in it's choice of that place by the mere accident of finding the potatoes which were planted there; or is it the conſtant practice of the aquatic-rat to forſake the neighbourhood of the water in the colder months?

Though I delight very little in analogous reaſoning, knowing how fallacious it is with reſpect to natural hiſtory; yet, in the following inſtance, I cannot help being inclined to think it may conduce towards the explanation of a difficulty that I have mentioned before, with reſpect to the invariable early retreat of the *hirundo apus*, or ſwift, ſo many weeks before it's congeners; and that not only with us, but alſo in *Andaluſia*, where they alſo begin to retire about the beginning of *Auguſt*.

The great large bat[1] (which by the by is at preſent a non-

[1] The little bat appears almoſt every month in the year; but I have never ſeen the large ones till the end of *April*, nor after *July*. They are moſt common in *June*, but never in any plenty: are a rare ſpecies with us.

deſcript in *England*, and what I have never been able yet to procure) retires or migrates very early in the ſummer: it alſo ranges very high for it's food, feeding in a different region of the air; and that is the reaſon I never could procure one. Now this is exactly the caſe with the ſwifts; for they take their food in a more exalted region than the other ſpecies, and are very ſeldom ſeen hawking for flies near the ground, or over the ſurface of the water. From hence I would conclude that theſe *hirundines*, and the larger bats, are ſupported by ſome ſorts of high-flying gnats, ſcarabs, or *phalænæ*, that are of ſhort continuance; and that the ſhort ſtay of theſe ſtrangers is regulated by the defect of their food.

By my journal it appears that curlews clamoured on to *October* the thirty-firſt; ſince which I have not ſeen or heard any. Swallows were obſerved on to *November* the third.

LETTER XXVII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Feb. 22, 1770.

HEDGE-HOGS abound in my gardens and fields. The manner in which they eat their roots of the plantain in my graſs-walks is very curious: with their upper mandible, which is much longer than their lower, they bore under the plant, and ſo eat the root off upwards, leaving the tuft of leaves untouched. In this reſpect they are

are ſerviceable, as they deſtroy a very troubleſome weed; but they deface the walks in ſome meaſure by digging little round holes. It appears, by the dung that they drop upon the turf, that beetles are no inconſiderable part of their food. In *June* laſt I procured a litter of four or five young hedge-hogs, which appeared to be about five or ſix days old: they, I find, like puppies, are born blind, and could not ſee when they came to my hands. No doubt their ſpines are ſoft and flexible at the time of their birth, or elſe the poor dam would have but a bad time of it in the critical moment of parturition: but it is plain that they ſoon harden; for theſe little pigs had ſuch ſtiff prickles on their backs and ſides as would eaſily have fetched blood, had they not been handled with caution. Their ſpines are quite white at this age; and they have little hanging ears, which I do not remember to be diſcernible in the old ones. They can, in part, at this age draw their ſkin down over their faces; but are not able to contract themſelves into a ball, as they do, for the ſake of defence, when full grown. The reaſon, I ſuppoſe, is, becauſe the curious muſcle that enables the creature to roll itſelf up in a ball was not then arrived at it's full tone and firmneſs. Hedge-hogs make a deep and warm *hybernaculum* with leaves and moſs, in which they conceal themſelves for the winter: but I never could find that they ſtored in any winter proviſion, as ſome quadrupeds certainly do.

I have diſcovered an anecdote with reſpect to the fieldfare *(turdus pilaris)*, which I think is particular enough: this bird, though it ſits on trees in the day-time, and procures the greateſt part of it's food from white-thorn hedges; yea, moreover, builds on very high trees; as may be ſeen by the *fauna ſuecica*; yet always appears with us to rooſt on the ground. They are ſeen to come in flocks juſt before it is dark, and to ſettle and neſtle among

among the heath on our foreſt. And beſides, the larkers, in dragging their nets by night, frequently catch them in the wheat-ſtubbles; while the bat-fowlers, who take many red-wings in the hedges, never entangle any of this ſpecies. Why theſe birds, in the matter of rooſting, ſhould differ from all their congeners, and from themſelves alſo with reſpect to their proceedings by day, is a fact for which I am by no means able to account.

I have ſomewhat to inform you of concerning the *mooſe-deer*; but in general foreign animals fall ſeldom in my way: my little intelligence is confined to the narrow ſphere of my own obſervations at home.

LETTER XXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE, March 1770.

ON *Michaelmas-day* 1768 I managed to get a ſight of the female mooſe belonging to the duke of *Richmond*, at *Goodwood*; but was greatly diſappointed, when I arrived at the ſpot, to find that it died, after having appeared in a languiſhing way for ſome time, on the morning before. However, underſtanding that it was not ſtripped, I proceeded to examine this rare quadruped: I found it in an old green-houſe, ſlung under the belly and chin by ropes, and in a ſtanding poſture; but, though it had been dead for ſo ſhort a time, it was in ſo putrid a ſtate that the ſtench was hardly

ſupportable. The grand diſtinction between this deer, and any other ſpecies that I have ever met with, conſiſted in the ſtrange length of it's legs; on which it was tilted up much in the manner of the birds of the *grallæ* order. I meaſured it, as they do an horſe, and found that, from the ground to the wither, it was juſt five feet four inches; which height anſwers exactly to ſixteen hands, a growth that few horſes arrive at: but then, with this length of legs, it's neck was remarkably ſhort, no more than twelve inches; ſo that, by ſtraddling with one foot forward and the other backward, it grazed on the plain ground, with the greateſt difficulty, between it's legs: the ears were vaſt and lopping, and as long as the neck; the head was about twenty inches long, and aſs-like; and had ſuch a redundancy of upper lip as I never ſaw before, with huge noſtrils. This lip, travellers ſay, is eſteemed a dainty diſh in *North America*. It is very reaſonable to ſuppoſe that this creature ſupports itſelf chiefly by browſing of trees, and by wading after water plants; towards which way of livelihood the length of legs and great lip muſt contribute much. I have read ſomewhere that it delights in eating the *nymphæa*, or water-lily. From the fore-feet to the belly behind the ſhoulder it meaſured three feet and eight inches: the length of the legs before and behind conſiſted a great deal in the *tibia*, which was ſtrangely long; but, in my haſte to get out of the ſtench, I forgot to meaſure that joint exactly. It's ſcut ſeemed to be about an inch long; the colour was a grizzly black; the mane about four inches long; the fore-hoofs were upright and ſhapely, the hind flat and ſplayed. The ſpring before it was only two years old, ſo that moſt probably it was not then come to it's growth. What a vaſt tall beaſt muſt a full grown ſtag be! I have been told ſome arrive at ten feet and an half! This poor creature had at firſt a female companion of the

ſame

ſame ſpecies, which died the ſpring before. In the ſame garden was a young ſtag, or red deer, between whom and this mooſe it was hoped that there might have been a breed; but their inequality of height muſt have always been a bar to any commerce of the amorous kind. I ſhould have been glad to have examined the teeth, tongue, lips, hoofs, &c. minutely; but the putrefaction precluded all farther curioſity. This animal, the keeper told me, ſeemed to enjoy itſelf beſt in the extreme froſt of the former winter. In the houſe they ſhewed me the horn of a male mooſe, which had no front-antlers, but only a broad palm with ſome ſnags on the edge. The noble owner of the dead mooſe propoſed to make a ſkeleton of her bones.

Pleaſe to let me hear if my female mooſe correſponds with that you ſaw; and whether you think ſtill that the *American* mooſe and *European* elk are the ſame creature. I am,

With the greateſt eſteem, &c.

LETTER XXIX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, May 12, 1770.

LAST month we had ſuch a ſeries of cold turbulent weather, ſuch a conſtant ſucceſſion of froſt, and ſnow, and hail, and tempeſt, that the regular migration or appearance of the ſummer birds was much interrupted. Some did not ſhew themſelves (at leaſt

leaſt were not heard) till weeks after their uſual time; as the *black-cap* and *white-throat*; and ſome have not been heard yet, as the *graſshopper-lark* and largeſt *willow-wren*. As to the *fly-catcher*, I have not ſeen it; it is indeed one of the lateſt, but ſhould appear about this time: and yet, amidſt all this meteorous ſtrife and war of the elements, two ſwallows diſcovered themſelves as long ago as the eleventh of *April*, in froſt and ſnow; but they withdrew quickly, and were not viſible again for many days. Houſe-martins, which are always more backward than ſwallows, were not obſerved till *May* came in.

Among the *monogamous* birds ſeveral are to be found, after pairing-time, ſingle, and of each ſex: but whether this ſtate of celibacy is matter of choice or neceſſity, is not ſo eaſily diſcoverable. When the houſe-ſparrows deprive my martins of their neſts, as ſoon as I cauſe one to be ſhot, the other, be it cock or hen, preſently procures a mate, and ſo for ſeveral times following.

I have known a dove-houſe infeſted by a pair of white owls, which made great havock among the young pigeons: one of the owls was ſhot as ſoon as poſſible; but the ſurvivor readily found a mate, and the miſchief went on. After ſome time the new pair were both deſtroyed, and the annoyance ceaſed.

Another inſtance I remember of a ſportſman, whoſe zeal for the increaſe of his game being greater than his humanity, after pairing-time he always ſhot the cock-bird of every couple of partridges upon his grounds; ſuppoſing that the rivalry of many males interrupted the breed: he uſed to ſay, that, though he had widowed the ſame hen ſeveral times, yet he found ſhe was ſtill provided with a freſh paramour, that did not take her away from her uſual haunt.

Again; I knew a lover of ſetting, an old ſportſman, who has

often told me that ſoon after harveſt he has frequently taken ſmall coveys of partridges, conſiſting of cock-birds alone; theſe he pleaſantly uſed to call old bachelors.

There is a propenſity belonging to common houſe-cats that is very remarkable; I mean their violent fondneſs for fiſh, which appears to be their moſt favourite food: and yet nature in this inſtance ſeems to have planted in them an appetite that, unaſſiſted, they know not how to gratify: for of all quadrupeds cats are the leaſt diſpoſed towards water; and will not, when they can avoid it, deign to wet a foot, much leſs to plunge into that element.

Quadrupeds that prey on fiſh are amphibious: ſuch is the otter, which by nature is ſo well formed for diving, that it makes great havock among the inhabitants of the waters. Not ſuppoſing that we had any of thoſe beaſts in our ſhallow brooks, I was much pleaſed to ſee a male otter brought to me, weighing twenty-one pounds, that had been ſhot on the bank of our ſtream below the *Priory*, where the rivulet divides the pariſh of *Selborne* from *Harteley-wood*.

LETTER XXX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Aug. 1, 1770.

THE *French*, I think, in general are ſtrangely prolix in their natural hiſtory. What *Linnæus* ſays with reſpect to inſects holds good in every other branch: "*Verboſitas præſentis ſæculi, calamitas "artis.*"

Pray

Pray how do you approve of *Scopoli*'s new work? as I admire his *Entomologia*, I long to ſee it.

I forgot to mention in my laſt letter (and had not room to inſert in the former) that the male mooſe, in rutting time, ſwims from iſland to iſland, in the lakes and rivers of *North-America*, in purſuit of the females. My friend, the chaplain, ſaw one killed in the water as it was on that errand in the river St. *Lawrence:* it was a monſtrous beaſt, he told me; but he did not take the dimenſions.

When I was laſt in town our friend Mr. *Barrington* moſt obligingly carried me to ſee many curious ſights. As you were then writing to him about horns, he carried me to ſee many ſtrange and wonderful ſpecimens. There is, I remember, at Lord *Pembroke*'s, at *Wilton*, an horn room furniſhed with more than thirty different pairs; but I have not ſeen that houſe lately.

Mr. *Barrington* ſhewed me many aſtoniſhing collections of ſtuffed and living birds from all quarters of the world. After I had ſtudied over the latter for a time, I remarked that every ſpecies almoſt that came from diſtant regions, ſuch as *South America*, the coaſt of *Guinea*, &c. were thick-billed birds of the *loxia* and *fringilla* genera; and no *motacillæ*, or *muſcicapæ*, were to be met with. When I came to conſider, the reaſon was obvious enough; for the hard-billed birds ſubſiſt on ſeeds which are eaſily carried on board; while the ſoft-billed birds, which are ſupported by worms and inſects, or, what is a *ſuccedaneum* for them, freſh raw meat, can meet with neither in long and tedious voyages. It is from this defect of food that our collections (curious as they are) are defective, and we are deprived of ſome of the moſt delicate and lively genera. I am, &c.

LETTER XXXI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Sept. 14, 1770.

You ſaw, I find, the ring-ouſels again among their native crags; and are farther aſſured that they continue reſident in thoſe cold regions the whole year. From whence then do our ring-ouſels migrate ſo regularly every *September*, and make their appearance again, as if in their return, every *April?* They are more early this year than common, for ſome were ſeen at the uſual hill on the fourth of this month.

An obſerving *Devonſhire* gentleman tells me that they frequent ſome parts of *Dartmoor*, and breed there; but leave thoſe haunts about the end of *September* or beginning of *October*, and return again about the end of *March*.

Another intelligent perſon aſſures me that they breed in great abundance all over the *Peak* of *Derby*, and are called there *Tor-ouſels*; withdraw in *October* and *November*, and return in ſpring. This information ſeems to throw ſome light on my new migration.

Scopoli's[m] new work (which I have juſt procured) has it's merit in aſcertaining many of the birds of the *Tirol* and *Carniola*. Monographers, come from whence they may, have, I think, fair pretence to challenge ſome regard and approbation from the

[m] *Annus Primus Hiſtorico-Naturalis.*

lovers

lovers of natural hiſtory; for, as no man can alone inveſtigate all the works of nature, theſe partial writers may, each in their department, be more accurate in their diſcoveries, and freer from errors, than more general writers; and ſo by degrees may pave the way to an univerſal correct natural hiſtory. Not that *Scopoli* is ſo circumſtantial and attentive to the life and converſation of his birds as I could wiſh: he advances ſome falſe facts; as when he ſays of the *hirundo urbica* that "*pullos extra nidum non* "*nutrit.*" This aſſertion I know to be wrong from repeated obſervation this ſummer; for houſe-martins do feed their young flying, though it muſt be acknowledged not ſo commonly as the houſe-ſwallow; and the feat is done in ſo quick a manner as not to be perceptible to indifferent obſervers. He alſo advances ſome (I was going to ſay) improbable facts; as when he ſays of the woodcock that "*pullos roſtro portat fugiens ab hoſte.*" But candour forbids me to ſay abſolutely that any fact is falſe, becauſe I have never been witneſs to ſuch a fact. I have only to remark that the long unweildy bill of the woodcock is perhaps the worſt adapted of any among the winged creation for ſuch a feat of natural affection. I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XXXII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, October 29, 1770.

AFTER an ineffectual ſearch in *Linnæus*, *Briſſon*, &c. I begin to ſuſpect that I diſcern my brother's *hirundo hyberna* in *Scopoli*'s new diſcovered *hirundo rupeſtris*, p. 167. His deſcription of "*Supra murina, ſubtus albida; rectrices maculâ ovali albâ in latere* "*interno; pedes nudi, nigri; roſtrum nigrum; remiges obſcuriores quam* "*plumæ dorſales; rectrices remigibus concolores; caudâ emarginatâ, nec* "*forcipatâ*;" agrees very well with the bird in queſtion: but when he comes to advance that it is "*ſtatura hirundinis urbicæ*," and that "*definitio hirundinis ripariæ Linnæi huic quoque convenit*," he in ſome meaſure invalidates all he has ſaid; at leaſt he ſhews at once that he compares them to theſe ſpecies merely from memory: for I have compared the birds themſelves, and find they differ widely in every circumſtance of ſhape, ſize, and colour. However, as you will have a ſpecimen, I ſhall be glad to hear what your judgment is in the matter.

Whether my brother is foreſtalled in his non-deſcript or not, he will have the credit of firſt diſcovering that they ſpend their winters under the warm and ſheltery ſhores of *Gibraltar* and *Barbary*.

Scopoli's characters of his ordines and genera are clean, juſt, and expreſſive, and much in the ſpirit of *Linnæus*. Theſe few remarks are the reſult of my firſt peruſal of *Scopoli's Annus Primus*.

The

The bane of our ſcience is the comparing one animal to the other by memory: for want of caution in this particular *Scopoli* falls into errors: he is not ſo full with regard to the manners of his indigenous birds as might be wiſhed, as you juſtly obſerve: his Latin is eaſy, elegant, and expreſſive, and very ſuperior to *Kramer*'s [n].

I am pleaſed to ſee that my deſcription of the *mooſe* correſponds ſo well with yours. I am, &c.

LETTER XXXIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Nov. 26, 1770.

I WAS much pleaſed to ſee, among the collection of birds from *Gibraltar*, ſome of thoſe ſhort-winged *Engliſh* ſummer-birds of paſſage, concerning whoſe departure we have made ſo much inquiry. Now if theſe birds are found in *Andaluſia* to migrate to and from *Barbary*, it may eaſily be ſuppoſed that thoſe that come to us may migrate back to the continent, and ſpend their winters in ſome of the warmer parts of *Europe*. This is certain, that many ſoft-billed birds that come to *Gibraltar* appear there only in ſpring and autumn, ſeeming to advance in pairs towards the northward, for the ſake of breeding during the ſummer months;

[n] See his *Elenchus vegetabilium et animalium per Auſtriam inferiorem, &c.*

and

and retiring in parties and broods towards the ſouth at the decline of the year: ſo that the rock of *Gibraltar* is the great rendezvous, and place of obſervation, from whence they take their departure each way towards *Europe* or *Africa*. It is therefore no mean diſcovery, I think, to find that our ſmall ſhort-winged ſummer birds of paſſage are to be ſeen ſpring and autumn on the very ſkirts of *Europe*; it is a preſumptive proof of their emigrations.

Scopoli ſeems to me to have found the *hirundo melba*, the great *Gibraltar* ſwift, in *Tirol*, without knowing it. For what is his *hirundo alpina* but the afore-mentioned bird in other words? Says he "*Omnia prioris*" (meaning the ſwift); "*ſed pectus album*; "*paulo major priore*." I do not ſuppoſe this to be a new ſpecies. It is true alſo of the *melba*, that "*nidificat in excelſis Alpium rupibus*." *Vid. Annum Primum.*

My *Suſſex* friend, a man of obſervation and good ſenſe, but no naturaliſt, to whom I applied on account of the *ſtone-curlew*, *oedicnemus*, ſends me the following account: "In looking over "my Naturaliſt's Journal for the month of *April*, I find the *ſtone-* "*curlews* are firſt mentioned on the ſeventeenth and eighteenth, "which date ſeems to me rather late. They live with us all the "ſpring and ſummer, and at the beginning of autumn prepare "to take leave by getting together in flocks. They ſeem to me "a bird of paſſage that may travel into ſome dry hilly country "ſouth of us, probably Spain, becauſe of the abundance of "ſheep-walks in that country; for they ſpend their ſummers "with us in ſuch diſtricts. This conjecture I hazard, as I have "never met with any one that has ſeen them in *England* in the "winter. I believe they are not fond of going near the water, "but feed on earth-worms, that are common on ſheep-walks and "downs. They breed on fallows and lay-fields abounding with "grey

" grey moſſy flints, which much reſemble their young in colour; " among which they ſkulk and conceal themſelves. They " make no neſt, but lay their eggs on the bare ground, " producing in common but two at a time. There is reaſon to " think their young run ſoon after they are hatched; and that " the old ones do not feed them, but only lead them about at " the time of feeding, which, for the moſt part, is in the night." Thus far my friend.

In the manners of this bird you ſee there is ſomething very analogous to the buſtard, whom it alſo ſomewhat reſembles in aſpect and make, and in the ſtructure of it's feet.

For a long time I have deſired my relation to look out for theſe birds in *Andaluſia*; and now he writes me word that, for the firſt time, he ſaw one dead in the market on the third of *September*.

When the *oedicnemus* flies it ſtretches out it's legs ſtraight behind, like an heron. I am &c.

LETTER XXXIV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, March 30, 1771.

THERE is an inſect with us, eſpecially on chalky diſtricts, which is very troubleſome and teaſing all the latter end of the ſummer, getting into people's ſkins, eſpecially thoſe of women and children,

and raiſing tumours which itch intolerably. This animal (which we call an harveſt bug) is very minute, ſcarce diſcernible to the naked eye; of a bright ſcarlet colour, and of the genus of *Acarus*. They are to be met with in gardens on kidneybeans, or any legumens; but prevail only in the hot months of ſummer. Warreners, as ſome have aſſured me, are much infeſted by them on chalky downs; where theſe inſects ſwarm ſometimes to ſo infinite a degree as to diſcolour their nets, and to give them a reddiſh caſt, while the men are ſo bitten as to be thrown into fevers.

There is a ſmall long ſhining fly in theſe parts very troubleſome to the houſewife, by getting into the chimnies, and laying it's eggs in the bacon while it is drying: theſe eggs produce maggots called *jumpers*, which, harbouring in the gammons and beſt parts of the hogs, eat down to the bone, and make great waſte. This fly I ſuſpect to be a variety of the *muſca putris* of *Linnæus:* it is to be ſeen in the ſummer in farm-kitchens on the bacon-racks and about the mantle-pieces, and on the ceilings.

The inſect that infeſts turnips and many crops in the garden (deſtroying often whole fields while in their ſeedling leaves) is an animal that wants to be better known. The country people here call it the *turnip-fly* and *black-dolphin*; but I know it to be one of the *coleoptera*; the "*chryſomela oleracea, ſaltatoria, femoribus poſticis craſſiſſimis.*" In very hot ſummers they abound to an amazing degree, and, as you walk in a field or in a garden, make a pattering like rain, by jumping on the leaves of the turnips or cabbages.

There is an *Oeſtrus*, known in theſe parts to every ploughboy; which, becauſe it is omitted by *Linnæus*, is alſo paſſed over by late writers; and that is the *curvicauda* of old *Mouſet*, mentioned by

by *Derham* in his Phyſico-theology, p. 250: an inſect worthy of remark for depoſiting it's eggs as it flies in ſo dextrous a manner on the ſingle hairs of the legs and flanks of graſs-horſes. But then *Derham* is miſtaken when he advances that this *Oeſtrus* is the parent of that wonderful ſtar-tailed maggot which he mentions afterwards; for more modern entomologiſts have diſcovered that ſingular production to be derived from the egg, or the *muſca chamæleon:* ſee *Geoffroy*, t. 17, f. 4.

A full hiſtory of noxious inſects hurtful in the field, garden, and houſe, ſuggeſting all the known and likely means of deſtroying them, would be allowed by the public to be a moſt uſeful and important work. What knowledge there is of this ſort lies ſcattered, and wants to be collected; great improvements would ſoon follow of courſe. A knowledge of the properties, œconomy, propagation, and in ſhort of the life and converſation of theſe animals, is a neceſſary ſtep to lead us to ſome method of preventing their depredations.

As far as I am a judge, nothing would recommend entomology more than ſome neat plates that ſhould well expreſs the *generic diſtinctions* of inſects according to *Linnæus*; for I am well aſſured that many people would ſtudy inſects, could they ſet out with a more adequate notion of thoſe diſtinctions than can be conveyed at firſt by words alone.

LETTER XXXV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, 1771.

HAPPENING to make a viſit to my neighbour's peacocks, I could not help obſerving that the trains of thoſe magnificent birds appear by no means to be their tails; thoſe long feathers growing not from their *uropygium*, but all up their backs. A range of ſhort brown ſtiff feathers, about ſix inches long, fixed in the *uropygium*, is the real tail, and ſerves as the *fulcrum* to prop the train, which is long and top-heavy, when ſet an end. When the train is up, nothing appears of the bird before but it's head and neck; but this would not be the caſe were thoſe long feathers fixed only in the rump, as may be ſeen by the turkey-cock when in a ſtrutting attitude. By a ſtrong muſcular vibration theſe birds can make the ſhafts of their long feathers clatter like the ſwords of a ſword-dancer; they then trample very quick with their feet, and run backwards towards the females.

I ſhould tell you that I have got an uncommon *calculus ægogropila*, taken out of the ſtomach of a fat ox; it is perfectly round, and about the ſize of a large *Seville* orange; ſuch are, I think, uſually flat.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, Sept. 1771.

THE ſummer through I have ſeen but two of that large ſpecies of bat which I call *veſpertilio altivolans*, from it's manner of feeding high in the air: I procured one of them, and found it to be a male; and made no doubt, as they accompanied together, that the other was a female: but, happening in an evening or two to procure the other likewiſe, I was ſomewhat diſappointed, when it appeared to be alſo of the ſame ſex. This circumſtance, and the great ſcarcity of this ſort, at leaſt in theſe parts, occaſions ſome ſuſpicions in my mind whether it is really a ſpecies, or whether it may not be the male part of the more known ſpecies, one of which may ſupply many females; as is known to be the caſe in ſheep, and ſome other quadrupeds. But this doubt can only be cleared by a farther examination, and ſome attention to the ſex, of more ſpecimens: all that I know at preſent is, that my two were amply furniſhed with the parts of generation much reſembling thoſe of a boar.

In the extent of their wings they meaſured fourteen inches and an half; and four inches and an half from the noſe to the tip of the tail: their heads were large, their noſtrils bilobated, their ſhoulders broad and muſcular; and their whole bodies fleſhy and plump. Nothing could be more ſleek and ſoft than their fur, which was of a bright cheſnut colour; their maws were full of food,

food, but ſo macerated that the quality could not be diſtinguiſhed; their livers, kidnies, and hearts, were large, and their bowels covered with fat. They weighed each, when entire, full one ounce and one drachm. Within the ear there was ſomewhat of a peculiar ſtructure that I did not underſtand perfectly; but refer it to the obſervation of the curious anatomiſt. Theſe creatures ſent forth a very rancid and offenſive ſmell.

LETTER XXXVII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, 1771.

ON the twelfth of *July* I had a fair opportunity of contemplating the motions of the *caprimulgus*, or fern-owl, as it was playing round a large oak that ſwarmed with *ſcarabæi ſolſtitiales*, or fern-chafers. The powers of it's wing were wonderful, exceeding, if poſſible, the various evolutions and quick turns of the ſwallow genus. But the circumſtance that pleaſed me moſt was, that I ſaw it diſtinctly, more than once, put out it's ſhort leg while on the wing, and, by a bend of the head, deliver ſomewhat into it's mouth. If it takes any part of it's prey with it's foot, as I have now the greateſt reaſon to ſuppoſe it does theſe chafers, I no longer wonder at the uſe of it's middle toe, which is curiouſly furniſhed with a ſerrated claw.

Swallows

Swallows and martins, the bulk of them I mean, have forſaken us ſooner this year than uſual; for, on *September* the twenty-ſecond, they rendezvouſed in a neighbour's walnut-tree, where it ſeemed probable they had taken up their lodging for the night. At the dawn of the day, which was foggy, they aroſe all together in infinite numbers, occaſioning ſuch a ruſhing from the ſtrokes of their wings againſt the hazy air, as might be heard to a conſiderable diſtance: ſince that no flock has appeared, only a few ſtragglers.

Some ſwifts ſtaid late, till the twenty-ſecond of *Auguſt*—a rare inſtance! for they uſually withdraw within the firſt week *.

On *September* the twenty-fourth three or four ring-ouſels appeared in my fields for the firſt time this ſeaſon: how punctual are theſe viſitors in their autumnal and ſpring migrations!

LETTER XXXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, March 15, 1773.

By my journal for laſt autumn it appears that the houſe-martins bred very late, and ſtaid very late in theſe parts; for, on the firſt of *October*, I ſaw young martins in their neſt nearly fledged; and again, on the twenty-firſt of *October*, we had at the next houſe a neſt full of young martins juſt ready to fly; and the old ones were hawking for inſects with great alertneſs. The next

* See letter liii. to Mr. *Barrington*.

morning

morning the brood forſook their neſt, and were flying round the village. From this day I never ſaw one of the ſwallow kind till *November* the third; when twenty, or perhaps thirty, houſe-martins were playing all day long by the ſide of the hanging wood, and over my fields. Did theſe ſmall weak birds, ſome of which were neſtlings twelve days ago, ſhift their quarters at this late ſeaſon of the year to the other ſide of the northern tropic? Or rather, is it not more probable that the next church, ruin, chalk-cliff, ſteep covert, or perhaps ſandbank, lake or pool (as a more northern naturaliſt would ſay), may become their *hybernaculum*, and afford them a ready and obvious retreat?

We now begin to expect our vernal migration of ring-ouſels every week. Perſons worthy of credit aſſure me that ring-ouſels were ſeen at *Chriſtmas* 1770 in the foreſt of *Bere*, on the ſouthern verge of this county. Hence we may conclude that their migrations are only internal, and not extended to the continent ſouthward, if they do at firſt come at all from the northern parts of this iſland only, and not from the north of *Europe*. Come from whence they will, it is plain, from the fearleſs diſregard that they ſhew for men or guns, that they have been little accuſtomed to places of much reſort. Navigators mention that in the *Iſle of Aſcenſion*, and other ſuch deſolate diſtricts, birds are ſo little acquainted with the human form that they ſettle on men's ſhoulders; and have no more dread of a ſailor than they would have of a goat that was grazing. A young man at *Lewes*, in *Suſſex*, aſſured me that about ſeven years ago ring-ouſels abounded ſo about that town in the autumn that he killed ſixteen himſelf in one afternoon: he added further, that ſome had appeared ſince in every autumn; but he could not find that any had been obſerved before the ſeaſon in which he ſhot ſo many. I myſelf have found theſe birds in little

little parties in the autumn cantoned all along the *Suſſex* downs, wherever there were ſhrubs and buſhes, from *Chicheſter* to *Lewes*; particularly in the autumn of 1770. I am, &c.

LETTER XXXIX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Nov. 9, 1773.

As you deſire me to ſend you ſuch obſervations as may occur, I take the liberty of making the following remarks, that you may, according as you think me right or wrong, admit or reject what I here advance, in your intended new edition of the *Britiſh Zoology*.

The oſprey [p] was ſhot about a year ago at *Friniſham-pond*, a great lake, at about ſix miles from hence, while it was fitting on the handle of a plough and devouring a fiſh: it uſed to precipitate itſelf into the water, and ſo take it's prey by ſurpriſe.

A great aſh-coloured [q] butcher-bird was ſhot laſt winter in *Tiſted-park*, and a red backed butcher-bird at *Selborne*: they are *raræ aves* in this county.

Crows [r] go in pairs the whole year round.

Corniſh choughs [s] abound, and breed on *Beachy-head* and on all the cliffs of the *Suſſex* coaſt.

[p] Britiſh Zoology, vol. 1, p. 128. [q] p. 161. [r] p. 167. [s] p. 198.

The common wild-pigeon,[t] or ſtock-dove, is a bird of paſſage in the ſouth of *England*, ſeldom appearing till towards the end of *November*; is uſually the lateſt winter-bird of paſſage. Before our beechen woods were ſo much deſtroyed we had myriads of them, reaching in ſtrings for a mile together as they went out in a morning to feed. They leave us early in ſpring; where do they breed?

The people of *Hampſhire* and *Suſſex* call the miſſel-bird[u] the ſtorm-cock, becauſe it ſings early in the ſpring in blowing ſhowery weather; it's ſong often commences with the year: with us it builds much in orchards.

A gentleman aſſures me he has taken the neſts of ring-ouſels[x] on *Dartmoor:* they build in banks on the ſides of ſtreams.

Titlarks[y] not only ſing ſweetly as they ſit on trees, but alſo as they play and toy about on the wing; and particularly while they are deſcending, and ſometimes as they ſtand on the ground.

Adanſon's[z] teſtimony ſeems to me to be a very poor evidence that *European* ſwallows migrate during our winter to *Senegal:* he does not talk at all like an ornithologiſt; and probably ſaw only the ſwallows of that country, which I know build within Governor *O'Hara*'s hall againſt the roof. Had he known *European* ſwallows, would he not have mentioned the ſpecies?

The *houſe-ſwallow* waſhes by dropping into the water as it flies: this *ſpecies* appears commonly about a week before the *houſe-martin*, and about ten or twelve days before the *ſwift*.

In 1772 there were young houſe-martins[a] in their neſt till *October* the twenty-third.

[t] p. 216. [u] p. 224. [x] p. 229. [y] Vol. 2, p 237.
[z] p. 242. [a] 244.

The

The *ſwift*[b] appears about *ten* or *twelve* days later than the *houſe-ſwallow: viz.* about the twenty-fourth or twenty-ſixth of *April.*

Whin-chats and *ſtone-chatters*[c] ſtay with us the whole year.

Some wheat-ears[d] continue with us the winter through.

Wagtails, all ſorts, remain with us all the winter.

Bulfinches,[e] when fed on hempſeed, often become wholly black.

We have vaſt flocks of *female* chaffinches[f] all the winter, with hardly any males among them.

When you ſay that in breeding-time the cock-ſnipes[g] make a bleating noiſe, and I a drumming (perhaps I ſhould have rather ſaid an humming), I ſuſpect we mean the ſame thing. However, while they are playing about on the wing they certainly make a loud piping with their mouths: but whether that bleating or humming is ventriloquous, or proceeds from the motion of their wings, I cannot ſay; but this I know, that when this noiſe happens the bird is always deſcending, and his wings are violently agitated.

Soon after the lapwings[h] have done breeding they congregate, and, leaving the moors and marſhes, betake themſelves to downs and ſheep-walks.

Two years ago[i] laſt ſpring the little auk was found alive and unhurt, but fluttering and unable to riſe, in a lane a few miles from *Alresford*, where there is a great lake: it was kept awhile, but died.

I ſaw young teals[k] taken alive in the ponds of *Wolmer-foreſt* in the beginning of *July* laſt, along with flappers, or young wild-ducks.

[b] 245. [c] 270. 271. [d] 269. [e] 300. [f] 306. [g] 358. [h] 360. [i] 409. [k] 475.

Speaking of the *ſwift*,[l] that page ſays "*it's drink the dew*;" whereas it ſhould be "it drinks on the wing;" for all the ſwallow kind ſip their water as they ſweep over the face of pools or rivers: like *Virgil*'s bees, they drink flying; "*flumina ſumma libant.*" In this method of drinking perhaps this genus may be peculiar.

Of the ſedge-bird[m] be pleaſed to ſay it ſings moſt part of the night; it's notes are hurrying, but not unpleaſing, and imitative of ſeveral birds; as the ſparrow, ſwallow, ſky-lark. When it happens to be ſilent in the night, by throwing a ſtone or clod into the buſhes where it ſits you immediately ſet it a ſinging; or in other words, though it ſlumbers ſometimes, yet as ſoon as it is awakened it reaſſumes it's ſong.

LETTER XL.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Sept. 2, 1774.

BEFORE your letter arrived, and of my own accord, I had been remarking and comparing the tails of the male and female ſwallow, and this ere any young broods appeared; ſo that there was no danger of confounding the dams with their *pulli*: and beſides, as they were then always in pairs, and buſied in the employ of nidification, there could be no room for miſtaking the ſexes, nor the individuals of different chimnies the one for the other. From all my obſervations, it conſtantly appeared that each ſex

[l] p. 15. [m] p. 16.

has

has the long feathers in it's tail that give it that forked ſhape; with this difference, that they are longer in the tail of the male than in that of the female.

Nightingales, when their young firſt come abroad, and are helpleſs, make a plaintive and a jarring noiſe; and alſo a ſnapping or cracking, purſuing people along the hedges as they walk: theſe laſt ſounds ſeem intended for menace and defiance.

The graſshopper-lark chirps all night in the height of ſummer.

Swans turn white the ſecond year, and breed the third.

Weaſels prey on moles, as appears by their being ſometimes caught in mole-traps.

Sparrow-hawks ſometimes breed in old crows' neſts, and the keſtril in churches and ruins.

There are ſuppoſed to be two ſorts of eels in the iſland of *Ely*. The threads ſometimes diſcovered in eels are perhaps their young: the generation of eels is very dark and myſterious.

Hen-harriers breed on the ground, and ſeem never to ſettle on trees.

When redſtarts ſhake their tails they move them horizontally, as dogs do when they fawn: the tail of a wagtail, when in motion, bobs up and down like that of a jaded horſe.

Hedge-ſparrows have a remarkable flirt with their wings in breeding-time; as ſoon as froſty mornings come they make a very piping plaintive noiſe.

Many birds which become ſilent about *Midſummer* reaſſume their notes again in *September*; as the thruſh, blackbird, wood-lark, willow-wren, &c.; hence *Auguſt* is by much the moſt mute month, the ſpring, ſummer, and autumn through. Are birds induced to ſing again becauſe the temperament of autumn reſembles that of ſpring?

Linnæus

Linnæus ranges plants geographically; palms inhabit the tropics, graſſes the temperate zones, and moſſes and lichens the polar circles; no doubt animals may be claſſed in the ſame manner with propriety.

Houſe-ſparrows build under eaves in the ſpring; as the weather becomes hotter they get out for coolneſs, and neſt in plum-trees and apple-trees. Theſe birds have been known ſometimes to build in rooks' neſts, and ſometimes in the forks of boughs under rooks' neſts.

As my neighbour was houſing a rick he obſerved that his dogs devoured all the little red mice that they could catch, but rejected the common mice; and that his cats ate the common mice, refuſing the red.

Red-breaſts ſing all through the ſpring, ſummer, and autumn. The reaſon that they are called autumn ſongſters is, becauſe in the two firſt ſeaſons their voices are drowned and loſt in the general chorus; in the latter their ſong becomes diſtinguiſhable. Many ſongſters of the autumn ſeem to be the young cock red-breaſts of that year: notwithſtanding the prejudices in their favour, they do much miſchief in gardens to the ſummer-fruits [n].

The titmouſe, which early in *February* begins to make two quaint notes, like the whetting of a ſaw, is the marſh titmouſe: the great titmouſe ſings with three cheerful joyous notes, and begins about the ſame time.

Wrens ſing all the winter through, froſt excepted.

Houſe-martins came remarkably late this year both in *Hampſhire* and *Devonſhire*: is this circumſtance for or againſt either hiding or migration?

[n] They eat alſo the berries of the ivy, the honey-ſuckle, and the *euonymus europæus*, or ſpindle-tree.

Moſt

Moſt birds drink ſipping at intervals; but pigeons take a long continued draught, like quadrupeds.

Notwithſtanding what I have ſaid in a former letter, no grey crows were ever known to breed on *Dartmoor*; it was my miſtake.

The appearance and flying of the *ſcarabæus ſolſtitialis*, or fern-chafer, commence with the month of *July*, and ceaſe about the end of it. Theſe ſcarabs are the conſtant food of *caprimulgi*, or fern owls, through that period. They abound on the chalky downs and in ſome ſandy diſtricts, but not in the clays.

In the garden of the *Black-bear* inn in the town of *Reading* is a ſtream or canal running under the ſtables and out into the fields on the other ſide of the road: in this water are many carps, which lie rolling about in ſight, being fed by travellers, who amuſe themſelves by toſſing them bread: but as ſoon as the weather grows at all ſevere theſe fiſhes are no longer ſeen, becauſe they retire under the ſtables, where they remain till the return of ſpring. Do they lie in a torpid ſtate? if they do not, how are they ſupported?

The note of the white-throat, which is continually repeated, and often attended with odd geſticulations on the wing, is harſh and diſpleaſing. Theſe birds ſeem of a pugnacious diſpoſition; for they ſing with an erected creſt and attitudes of rivalry and defiance; are ſhy and wild in breeding-time, avoiding neighbourhoods, and haunting lonely lanes and commons; nay even the very tops of the *Suſſex-downs*, where there are buſhes and covert; but in *July* and *Auguſt* they bring their broods into gardens and orchards, and make great havock among the ſummer-fruits.

The black-cap has in common a full, ſweet, deep, loud, and wild pipe; yet that ſtrain is of ſhort continuance, and his motions are deſultory; but when that bird ſits calmly and engages in ſong

in

in earneſt, he pours forth very ſweet, but inward melody, and expreſſes great variety of ſoft and gentle modulations, ſuperior perhaps to thoſe of any of our warblers, the nightingale excepted.

Black-caps moſtly haunt orchards and gardens; while they warble their throats are wonderfully diſtended.

The ſong of the redſtart is ſuperior, though ſomewhat like that of the white-throat: ſome birds have a few more notes than others. Sitting very placidly on the top of a tall tree in a village, the cock ſings from morning to night: he affects neighbourhoods, and avoids ſolitude, and loves to build in orchards and about houſes; with us he perches on the vane of a tall maypole.

The fly-catcher is of all our ſummer birds the moſt mute and the moſt familiar; it alſo appears the laſt of any. It builds in a vine, or a ſweetbriar, againſt the wall of an houſe, or in the hole of a wall, or on the end of a beam or plate, and often cloſe to the poſt of a door where people are going in and out all day long. This bird does not make the leaſt pretenſion to ſong, but uſes a little inward wailing note when it thinks it's young in danger from cats or other annoyances: it breeds but once, and retires early.

Selborne pariſh alone can and has exhibited at times more than half the birds that are ever ſeen in all *Sweden*; the former has produced more than one hundred and twenty ſpecies, the latter only two hundred and twenty-one. Let me add alſo that it has ſhewn near half the ſpecies that were ever known in *Great-Britian* [p].

On a retroſpect, I obſerve that my long letter carries with it a quaint and magiſterial air, and is very ſententious; but, when I recollect that you requeſted ſtricture and anecdote, I hope you will pardon the didactic manner for the ſake of the information it may happen to contain.

[p] *Sweden* 221, *Great-Britian* 252 ſpecies.

LETTER

LETTER XLI.

TO THE SAME.

It is matter of curious inquiry to trace out how thoſe ſpecies of ſoft-billed birds, that continue with us the winter through, ſubſiſt during the dead months. The imbecility of birds ſeems not to be the only reaſon why they ſhun the rigour of our winters; for the robuſt *wry-neck* (ſo much reſembling the hardy race of *wood-peckers*) migrates, while the feeble little *golden-crowned wren*, that ſhadow of a bird, braves our ſevereſt froſts without availing himſelf of houſes or villages, to which moſt of our winter-birds crowd in diſtreſsful ſeaſons, while this keeps aloof in fields and woods; but perhaps this may be the reaſon why they may often periſh, and why they are almoſt as rare as any bird we know.

I have no reaſon to doubt but that the ſoft-billed birds, which winter with us, ſubſiſt chiefly on inſects in their *aurelia* ſtate. All the ſpecies of *wagtails* in ſevere weather haunt ſhallow ſtreams near their ſpring-heads, where they never freeze; and, by wading, pick out the aurelias of the genus of [q] *Phryganeæ*, &c.

Hedge-ſparrows frequent ſinks and gutters in hard weather, where they pick up crumbs and other ſweepings: and in mild weather they procure worms, which are ſtirring every month in the year, as any one may ſee that will only be at the trouble of taking a candle to a graſs-plot on any mild winter's night. Red-breaſts and wrens in the winter haunt out-houſes, ſtables, and barns,

[q] See *Derham*'s Phyſico-theology, p. 235.

where they find ſpiders and flies that have laid themſelves up during the cold ſeaſon. But the grand ſupport of the ſoft-billed birds in winter is that infinite profuſion of *aureliæ* of the *lepidoptera ordo*, which is faſtened to the twigs of trees and their trunks; to the pales and walls of gardens and buildings; and is found in every cranny and cleft of rock or rubbiſh, and even in the ground itſelf.

Every ſpecies of titmouſe winters with us; they have what I call a kind of intermediate bill between the hard and the ſoft, between the *Linnæan* genera of *fringilla* and *motacilla*. One ſpecies alone ſpends it's whole time in the woods and fields, never retreating for ſuccour in the ſevereſt ſeaſons to houſes and neighbourhoods; and that is the delicate long-tailed titmouſe, which is almoſt as minute as the golden-crowned wren: but the blue titmouſe, or nun *(parus cæruleus)*, the cole-mouſe *(parus ater)*, the great black-headed titmouſe *(fringillago)*, and the marſh titmouſe *(parus paluſtris)*, all reſort, at times, to buildings; and in hard weather particularly. The great titmouſe, driven by ſtreſs of weather, much frequents houſes; and, in deep ſnows, I have ſeen this bird, while it hung with it's back downwards (to my no ſmall delight and admiration), draw ſtraws lengthwiſe from out the eaves of thatched houſes, in order to pull out the flies that were concealed between them, and that in ſuch numbers that they quite defaced the thatch, and gave it a ragged appearance.

The blue *titmouſe*, or *nun*, is a great frequenter of houſes, and a general devourer. Beſides inſects, it is very fond of fleſh; for it frequently picks bones on dunghills: it is a vaſt admirer of ſuet, and haunts butchers' ſhops. When a boy, I have known twenty in a morning caught with ſnap mouſe-traps, baited with tallow or ſuet. It will alſo pick holes in apples left on the ground, and be

be well entertained with the ſeeds on the head of a ſun-flower. The blue, marſh, and great titmice will, in very ſevere weather, carry away barley and oat ſtraws from the ſides of ricks.

How the *wheat-ear* and *whin-chat* ſupport themſelves in winter cannot be ſo eaſily aſcertained, ſince they ſpend their time on wild heaths and warrens; the former eſpecially, where there are ſtone quarries: moſt probably it is that their maintenance ariſes from the *aureliæ* of the *lepidoptera ordo*, which furniſh them with a plentiful table in the wilderneſs. I am, &c.

LETTER XLII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, March 9, 1775.

SOME future *fauniſt*, a man of fortune, will, I hope, extend his viſits to the kingdom of *Ireland*; a new field, and a country little known to the naturaliſt. He will not, it is to be wiſhed, undertake that tour unaccompanied by a botaniſt, becauſe the mountains have ſcarcely been ſufficiently examined; and the ſoutherly counties of ſo mild an iſland may poſſibly afford ſome plants little to be expected within the *Britiſh* dominions. A perſon of a thinking turn of mind will draw many juſt remarks from the modern improvements of that country, both in arts and agriculture, where premiums obtained long before they were heard of with us. The manners of the wild natives, their ſuperſtitions, their prejudices,

their ſordid way of life, will extort from him many uſeful reflections. He ſhould alſo take with him an able draughtſman; for he muſt by no means paſs over the noble caſtles and ſeats, the extenſive and pictureſque lakes and waterfalls, and the lofty ſtupendous mountains, ſo little known, and ſo engaging to the imagination when deſcribed and exhibited in a lively manner: ſuch a work would be well received.

As I have ſeen no modern map of *Scotland*, I cannot pretend to ſay how accurate or particular any ſuch may be; but this I know, that the beſt old maps of that kingdom are very defective.

The great obvious defect that I have remarked in all maps of *Scotland* that have fallen in my way is, a want of a *coloured line*, or *ſtroke*, that ſhall exactly define the juſt limits of that diſtrict called *The Highlands*. Moreover, all the great avenues to that mountainous and romantic country want to be well diſtinguiſhed. The military roads formed by general *Wade* are ſo great and Roman-like an undertaking that they well merit attention. My old map, *Moll*'s Map, takes notice of *Fort William*; but could not mention the other forts that have been erected long ſince: therefore a good repreſentation of the chain of forts ſhould not be omitted.

The celebrated zigzag up the *Coryarich* muſt not be paſſed over. *Moll* takes notice of *Hamilton* and *Drumlanrig*, and ſuch capital houſes; but a new ſurvey, no doubt, ſhould repreſent every ſeat and caſtle remarkable for any great event, or celebrated for it's paintings, &c. Lord *Breadalbane*'s ſeat and beautiful *policy* are too curious and extraordinary to be omitted.

The ſeat of the Earl of *Eglintoun*, near *Glaſgow*, is worthy of notice. The pine-plantations of that nobleman are very grand and extenſive indeed. I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XLIII.

TO THE SAME.

A PAIR of *honey-buzzards, buteo apivorus, ſive veſpivorus Raii*, built them a large ſhallow neſt, compoſed of twigs and lined with dead beechen leaves, upon a tall ſlender beech near the middle of *Selborne-hanger*, in the ſummer of 1780. In the middle of the month of *June* a bold boy climbed this tree, though ſtanding on ſo ſteep and dizzy a ſituation, and brought down an egg, the only one in the neſt, which had been ſat on for ſome time, and contained the embrio of a young bird. The egg was ſmaller, and not ſo round as thoſe of the common buzzard; was dotted at each end with ſmall red ſpots, and ſurrounded in the middle with a broad bloody zone.

The hen-bird was ſhot, and anſwered exactly to Mr. *Ray*'s deſcription of that ſpecies; had a black *cere*, ſhort thick legs, and a long tail. When on the wing this ſpecies may be eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the *common buzzard* by it's hawk-like appearance, ſmall head, wings not ſo blunt, and longer tail. This ſpecimen contained in it's craw ſome limbs of frogs and many grey ſnails without ſhells. The *irides* of the eyes of this bird were of a beautiful bright yellow colour.

About the tenth of *July* in the ſame ſummer a pair of *ſparrow-hawks* bred in an old crow's neſt on a low beech in the ſame hanger; and as their brood, which was numerous, began to grow up,

up, became ſo daring and ravenous, that they were a terror to all the dames in the village that had chickens or ducklings under their care. A boy climbed the tree, and found the young ſo fledged that they all eſcaped from him; but diſcovered that a good houſe had been kept: the larder was well-ſtored with proviſions; for he brought down a young blackbird, jay, and houſe-martin, all clean picked, and ſome half devoured. The old birds had been obſerved to make ſad havock for ſome days among the new-flown ſwallows and martins, which, being but lately out of their neſts, had not acquired thoſe powers and command of wing that enable them, when more mature, to ſet ſuch enemies at defiance.

LETTER XLIV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Nov. 30, 1780.

EVERY incident that occaſions a renewal of our correſpondence will ever be pleaſing and agreeable to me.

As to the wild *wood-pigeon*, the *oenas*, or *vinago*, of *Ray*, I am much of your mind; and ſee no reaſon for making it the origin of the common *houſe-dove*: but ſuppoſe thoſe that have advanced that opinion may have been miſled by another appellation, often given to the *oenas*, which is that of *ſtock-dove*,

Unleſs

Unleſs the ſtock-dove in the winter varies greatly in manners from itſelf in ſummer, no ſpecies ſeems more unlikely to be domeſticated, and to make an *houſe-dove*. We very rarely ſee the latter ſettle on trees at all, nor does it ever haunt the woods; but the former, as long as it ſtays with us, from *November* perhaps to *February*, lives the ſame wild life with the *ring-dove*, *palumbus torquatus*; frequents coppices and groves, ſupports itſelf chiefly by maſt, and delights to rooſt in the talleſt beeches. Could it be known in what manner ſtock-doves build, the doubt would be ſettled with me at once, provided they conſtruct their neſts on trees, like the *ring-dove*, as I much ſuſpect they do.

You received, you ſay, laſt ſpring a *ſtock-dove* from *Suſſex*; and are informed that they ſometimes breed in that country. But why did not your correſpondent determine the place of it's nidification, whether on rocks, cliffs, or trees? If he was not an adroit ornithologiſt I ſhould doubt the fact, becauſe people with us perpetually confound the *ſtock-dove* with the *ring-dove*.

For my own part, I readily concur with you in ſuppoſing that houſe-doves are derived from the *ſmall blue rock-pigeon*, for many reaſons. In the firſt place the wild ſtock-dove is manifeſtly larger than the common houſe-dove, againſt the uſual rule of domeſtication, which generally enlarges the breed. Again, thoſe two remarkable *black ſpots* on the remiges of each wing of the ſtock-dove, which are ſo characteriſtic of the ſpecies, would not, one ſhould think, be totally loſt by it's being reclaimed; but would often break out among its deſcendants. But what is worth an hundred arguments is, the inſtance you give in Sir *Roger Moſtyn*'s houſe-doves in *Caernarvonſhire*; which, though tempted by plenty of food and gentle treatment, can never be prevailed on to inhabit

inhabit their cote for any time; but, as ſoon as they begin to breed, betake themſelves to the faſtneſſes of *Ormſhead*, and depoſit their young in ſafety amidſt the inacceſſible caverns, and precipices of that ſtupendous promontory.

"Naturam expellas furcâ . . . tamen uſque recurret."

I have conſulted a ſportſman, now in his ſeventy-eighth year, who tells me that fifty or ſixty years back, when the beechen woods were much more extenſive than at preſent, the number of wood-pigeons was aſtoniſhing; that he has often killed near twenty in a day; and that with a long wild-fowl piece he has ſhot ſeven or eight at a time on the wing as they came wheeling over his head: he moreover adds, which I was not aware of, that often there were among them little parties of ſmall *blue doves*, which he calls *rockiers*. The food of theſe numberleſs emigrants was beech-maſt and ſome acorns; and particularly barley, which they collected in the ſtubbles. But of late years, ſince the vaſt increaſe of turnips, that vegetable has furniſhed a great part of their ſupport in hard weather; and the holes they pick in theſe roots greatly damage the crop. From this food their fleſh has contracted a rancidneſs which occaſions them to be rejected by nicer judges of eating, who thought them before a delicate diſh. They were ſhot not only as they were feeding in the fields, and eſpecially in ſnowy weather, but alſo at the cloſe of the evening, by men who lay in ambuſh among the woods and groves to kill them as they came in to roost[r]. Theſe are the principal circumſtances relating to this

[r] Some old ſportſmen ſay that the main part of theſe flocks uſed to withdraw as ſoon as the heavy *Chriſtmas* froſts were over.

wonderful

wonderful *internal* migration, which with us takes place towards the end of *November*, and ceaſes early in the ſpring. Laſt winter we had in *Selborne* high wood about an hundred of theſe doves; but in former times the flocks were ſo vaſt, not only with us but all the diſtrict round, that on mornings and evenings they traverſed the air, like rooks, in ſtrings, reaching for a mile together. When they thus rendezvouſed here by thouſands, if they happened to be ſuddenly rouſed from their rooſt-trees on an evening,

> " Their riſing all at once was like the ſound
> " Of thunder heard remote."——

It will by no means be foreign to the preſent purpoſe to add, that I had a relation in this neighbourhood who made it a practice, for a time, whenever he could procure the eggs of a *ring-dove*, to place them under a pair of doves that were ſitting in his own pigeon-houſe; hoping thereby, if he could bring about a coalition, to enlarge his breed, and teach his own doves to beat out into the woods and to ſupport themſelves by maſt: the plan was plauſible, but ſomething always interrupted the ſucceſs; for though the birds were uſually hatched, and ſometimes grew to half their ſize, yet none ever arrived at maturity. I myſelf have ſeen theſe foundlings in their neſt diſplaying a ſtrange ferocity of nature, ſo as ſcarcely to bear to be looked at, and ſnapping with their bills by way of menace. In ſhort, they always died, perhaps for want of proper ſuſtenance: but the owner thought that by their fierce and wild demeanour they frighted their foſter-mothers, and ſo were ſtarved.

Virgil, as a familiar occurrence, by way of ſimile, deſcribes a dove haunting the cavern of a rock in ſuch engaging numbers, that I cannot refrain from quoting the paſſage: and *John Dryden*

has rendered it ſo happily in our language, that without farther excuſe I ſhall add his tranſlation alſo.

" Qualis ſpelunca ſubitò commota Columba,
" Cui domus, et dulces latebroſo in pumice nidi,
" Fertur in arva volans, plauſumque exterrita pennis
" Dat tecto ingentem—mox aere lapſa quieto,
" Radit iter liquidum, celeres neque commovet alas."

" As when a dove her rocky hold forſakes,
" Rous'd, in a fright her ſounding wings ſhe ſhakes;
" The cavern rings with clattering:—out ſhe flies,
" And leaves her callow care, and cleaves the ſkies:
" At firſt ſhe flutters:—but at length ſhe ſprings
" To ſmoother flight, and ſhoots upon her wings."

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER I.

TO THE HONOURABLE DAINES BARRINGTON.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, June 30, 1769.

WHEN I was in town laſt month I partly engaged that I would ſometime do myſelf the honour to write to you on the ſubject of natural hiſtory: and I am the more ready to fulfil my promiſe, becauſe I ſee you are a gentleman of great candour, and one that will make allowances; eſpecially where the writer profeſſes to be an *out-door naturaliſt*, one that takes his obſervations from the ſubject itſelf, and not from the writings of others.

The following is a LIST *of the* SUMMER BIRDS *of* PASSAGE *which I have diſcovered in this neighbourhood, ranged ſomewhat in the order which they appear:*

	RAII NOMINA.	USUALLY APPEARS ABOUT
1. Wryneck,	*Jynx, ſive torquilla:*	The middle of *March*: harſh note.
2. Smalleſt willow-wren,	*Regulus non criſtatus:*	*March* 23: chirps till *September*.
3. Swallow,	*Hirundo domeſtica:*	*April* 13.
4. Martin,	*Hirundo ruſtica:*	Ditto.
5. Sand-martin,	*Hirundo riparia:*	Ditto.
6. Black-cap,	*Atricapilla:*	Ditto: a ſweet wild note.
7. Nightingale,	*Luſcinia:*	Beginning of *April*.
8. Cuckoo,	*Cuculus:*	Middle of *April*.
9. Middle willow-wren,	*Regulus non criſtatus:*	Ditto: a ſweet plantive note.
10. White-throat,	*Ficedulæ affinis:*	Ditto: mean note; ſings on till *September*.

11. Red-ſtart,	*Ruticilla:*	Ditto: more agreeable ſong.
12. Stone-curlew,	*Oedicnemus:*	End of *March*: loud nocturnal whiſtle.
13. Turtle-dove,	*Turtur.*	
14. Graſshopper-lark,	*Alauda minima locuſtæ voce:*	Middle *April:* a ſmall ſibilous note, till the end of *July.*
15. Swift,	*Hirundo apus:*	About *April* 27.
16. Leſs reed-ſparrow,	*Paſſer arundinaceus minor:*	A ſweet polyglot, but hurrying: it has the notes of many birds.
17. Land-rail,	*Ortygometra:*	A loud harſh note, crex, crex.
18. Largeſt willow-wren,	*Regulus non criſtatus:*	Cantat voce ſtridulâ locuſtæ; end of *April,* on the tops of high beeches.
19. Goatſucker, or fern-owl,	*Caprimulgus:*	Beginning of *May*; chatters by night with a ſingular noiſe.
20. Fly-catcher,	*Stoparola:*	*May* 12. A very mute bird: This is the lateſt ſummer bird of paſſage.

This aſſemblage of curious and amuſing birds belongs to ten ſeveral genera of the *Linnæan* ſyſtem; and are all of the *ordo* of *paſſeres* ſave the *jynx* and *cuculus*, which are *picæ*, and the *charadrius (oedicnemus)* and *rallus (ortygometra)*, which are *grallæ.*

Theſe birds, as they ſtand numerically, belong to the following *Linnæan* genera:

1,	*Jynx:*	13. *Columba:*
2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18.	*Motacilla:*	17. *Rallus:*
3, 4, 5, 15.	*Hirundo:*	19. *Caprimulgus:*
8.	*Cuculus:*	14. *Alauda:*
12.	*Charadrius:*	20. *Muſcicapa.*

Moſt

Moſt ſoft-billed birds live on inſects, and not on grain and ſeeds; and therefore at the end of ſummer they retire: but the following ſoft-billed birds, though inſect-eaters, ſtay with us the year round:

	RAII NOMINA.	
Redbreaſt,	*Rubecula:*	Theſe frequent houſes; and haunt out-
Wren,	*Paſſer troglodytes:*	buildings in the winter: eat ſpiders.
Hedge-ſparrow,	*Curruca:*	Haunt ſinks for crumbs and other ſweepings.
White-wagtail,	*Motacilla alba:*	Theſe frequent ſhallow rivulets near the
Yellow wagtail,	*Motacilla flava:*	ſpring heads, where they never freeze:
Grey wagtail,	*Motacilla cinerea:*	eat the aureliæ of Phryganea. The ſmalleſt birds that walk.
Wheat-ear,	*Oenanthe:*	Some of theſe are to be ſeen with us the winter through.
Whin-chat,	*Oenanthe ſecunda.*	
Stone-chatter,	*Oenanthe tertia.*	
Golden-crowned wren,	*Regulus criſtatus.*	This is the ſmalleſt Britiſh bird: haunts the tops of tall trees; ſtays the winter through.

A List *of the* Winter Birds *of* Passage *round this neighbourhood, ranged ſomewhat in the order in which they appear:*

	RAII NOMINA.	
1. Ring-ouſel,	*Merula torquata:*	This is a new migration, which I have lately diſcovered about *Michaelmas* week, and again about the fourteenth of *March*.
2. Redwing,	*Turdus iliacus:*	About old *Michaelmas*.
3. Fieldfare,	*Turdus pilaris:*	Though a percher by day, rooſts on the ground.
4. Royſton-crow,	*Cornix cinerea:*	Moſt frequent on downs,
5. Woodcock,	*Scolopax:*	Appears about old *Michaelmas*.
6. Snipe,	*Gallinago minor:*	Some ſnipes conſtantly breed with us.
7. Jack-ſnipe,	*Gallinago minima.*	
8. Wood-pigeon	*Oenas:*	Seldom appears till late: not in ſuch plenty as formerly.

9. Wild-

9. Wild-ſwan,	*Cygnus ferus:*	On ſome large waters.
10. Wild-gooſe,	*Anſer ferus:*	
11. Wild-duck,	*Anas torquata minor:*	On our lakes and ſtreams.
12. Pochard,	*Anas fera fuſca:*	
13. Wigeon,	*Penelope:*	
14. Teal, breeds with us in *Wolmer-foreſt*	*Querquedula:*	
15. Croſs-beak,	*Coccothraustes:*	Theſe are only wanderers that appear occaſionally, and are not obſervant of any regular migration.
16. Groſs-bill,	*Loxia:*	
17. Silk-tail,	*Garrulus bohemicus.*	

Theſe birds, as they ſtand numerically, belong to the following *Linnæan* genera:

1, 2, 3,	*Turdus:*	9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,	*Anas:*
4,	*Corvus:*		
5, 6, 7,	*Scolopax:*	15, 16,	*Loxia:*
8,	*Columba:*	17.	*Ampelis.*

Birds that ſing in the night are but few.

Nightingale,	*Luſcinia:*	"In ſhadieſt covert hid." MILTON.
Woodlark,	*Alauda arborea:*	Suſpended in mid air.
Leſs reed-ſparrow,	*Paſſer arundinaceus minor:*	Among reeds and willows.

I ſhould now proceed to ſuch birds as continue to ſing after *Midſummer*, but, as they are rather numerous, they would exceed the bounds of this paper: beſides, as this is now the ſeaſon for remarking on that ſubject, I am willing to repeat my obſervations on ſome birds concerning the continuation of whoſe ſong I ſeem at preſent to have ſome doubt. I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER II.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Nov. 2, 1769.

WHEN I did myſelf the honour to write to you about the end of laſt *June* on the ſubject of natural hiſtory, I ſent you a liſt of the ſummer-birds of paſſage which I have obſerved in this neighbourhood; and alſo a liſt of the winter-birds of paſſage: I mentioned beſides thoſe ſoft-billed birds that ſtay with us the winter through in the ſouth of *England*, and thoſe that are remarkable for ſinging in the night.

According to my propoſal, I ſhall now proceed to ſuch birds (ſinging birds ſtrictly ſo called) as continue in full ſong till after *Midſummer*; and ſhall range them ſomewhat in the order in which they firſt begin to open as the ſpring advances.

	RAII NOMINA.	
1. Wood-lark,	*Alauda arborea:*	In *January*, and continues to ſing through all the ſummer and autumn.
2. Song-thruſh,	*Turdus ſimpliciter dictus:*	In *February* and on to *Auguſt*, reaſſume their ſong in autumn.
3. Wren,	*Paſſer troglodytes:*	All the year, hard froſt excepted.
4. Redbreaſt,	*Rubecula:*	Ditto.
5. Hedge-ſparrow,	*Curruca:*	Early in *February* to *July* the 10th.
6. Yellowhammer,	*Emberiza flava:*	Early in *February*, and on through *July* to *Auguſt* the 21ſt.
7. Skylark,	*Alauda vulgaris:*	In *February*, and on to *October*.
8. Swallow,	*Hirundo domeſtica:*	From *April* to *September*.
9. Black-cap,	*Atricapilla:*	Beginning of *April* to *July* 13th.

10. Titlark,

10. Titlark,	*Alauda pratorum:*	From middle of *April* to *July* the 16th.
11. Blackbird,	*Merula vulgaris:*	Sometimes in *February* and *March*, and ſo on to *July* the twenty-third; reaſſumes in autumn.
12. White-throat,	*Ficedulæ affinis:*	In *April*, and on to *July* 23.
13. Goldfinch,	*Carduelis:*	*April*, and through to *September* 16.
14. Greenfinch,	*Chloris:*	On to *July* and *Auguſt* 2.
15. Leſs reed-ſparrow.	*Paſſer arundinaceus minor:*	*May*, on to beginning of *July*.
16. Common linnet,	*Linaria vulgaris:*	Breeds and whiſtles on till *Auguſt*; reaſſumes it's note when they begin to congregate in *October*, and again early before the flocks ſeparate.

Birds that ceaſe to be in full ſong, and are uſually ſilent at or before *Midſummer:*

17. Middle willow-wren,	*Regulus non criſtatus:*	Middle of *June:* begins in *April*.
18. Redſtart,	*Ruticilla:*	Ditto: begins in *May*.
19. Chaffinch,	*Fringilla:*	Beginning of *June:* ſings firſt in *February*.
20. Nightingale,	*Luſcinia:*	Middle of *June:* ſings firſt in *April*.

Birds that ſing for a ſhort time, and very early in the ſpring:

21. Miſſel-bird,	*Turdus viſcivorus:*	*January* the 2d, 1770, in *February*. Is called in *Hampſhire* and *Suſſex* the ſtorm-cock, becauſe it's ſong is ſuppoſed to forebode windy wet weather: is the largeſt ſinging bird we have.
22. Great titmouſe, or ox-eye,	*Fringillago:*	In *February*, *March*, *April:* reaſſumes for a ſhort time in *September*.

Birds

Birds that have ſomewhat of a note or ſong, and yet are hardly to be called ſinging birds:

	RAII NOMINA.	
23. Golden-crowned wren,	*Regulus criſtatus:*	It's note as minute as it's perſon; frequents the tops of high oaks and firs: the ſmalleſt *Britiſh* bird.
24. Marſh-titmouſe,	*Parus paluſtris:*	Haunts great woods: two harſh ſharp notes.
25. Small willow-wren,	*Regulus non criſtatus:*	Sings in *March*, and on to *September*.
26. Largeſt ditto,	*Ditto:*	*Cantat voce ſtridulâ locuſtæ*; from end of *April* to *Auguſt*.
27. Graſshopper-lark,	*Alauda minima voce locuſtæ:*	Chirps all night, from the middle of *April* to the end of *July*.
28. Martin,	*Hirundo agreſtis:*	All the breeding time; from *May* to *September*.
29. Bullfinch,	*Pyrrhula.*	
30. Bunting,	*Emberiza alba:*	From the end of *January* to *July*.

All ſinging birds, and thoſe that have any pretenſions to ſong, not only in *Britain*, but perhaps the world through, come under the *Linnæan ordo* of *paſſeres*.

The above-mentioned birds, as they ſtand numerically, belong to the following *Linnæan* genera.

1, 7, 10, 27.	*Alauda:*	8, 28.	*Hirundo.*
2, 11, 21.	*Turdus:*	13, 16, 19.	*Fringilla.*
3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, 26.	*Motacilla:*	22, 24.	*Parus.*
6, 30.	*Emberiza:*	14, 29.	*Loxia.*

Birds that ſing as they fly are but few.

	RAII NOMINA.	
Skylark,	*Alauda vulgaris:*	Riſing, ſuſpended, and falling.
Titlark,	*Alauda pratorum:*	In it's deſcent; alſo ſitting on trees, and walking on the ground.
Woodlark,	*Alauda arborea:*	Suſpended; in hot ſummer nights all night long.
Blackbird,	*Merula:*	Sometimes from buſh to buſh.
White-throat,	*Ficedulæ affinis:*	Uſes when ſinging on the wing odd jerks and geſticulations.
Swallow,	*Hirundo domeſtica:*	In ſoft ſunny weather.
Wren,	*Paſſer troglodytes:*	Sometimes from buſh to buſh.

Birds that breed moſt early in theſe parts:

Raven,	*Corvus:*	Hatches in *February* and *March*.
Song-thruſh,	*Turdus:*	In *March*.
Blackbird,	*Merula:*	In *March*.
Rook,	*Cornix frugilega:*	Builds the beginning of *March*.
Woodlark,	*Alauda arborea:*	Hatches in *April*.
Ring dove,	*Palumbus torquatus:*	Lays the beginning of April.

All birds that continue in full ſong till after *Midſummer* appear to me to breed more than once.

Moſt kinds of birds ſeem to me to be wild and ſhy ſomewhat in proportion to their bulk; I mean in this iſland, where they are much purſued and annoyed: but in *Aſcenſion Iſland*, and many other deſolate places, mariners have found fowls ſo unacquainted with an human figure, that they would ſtand ſtill to be taken; as is the caſe with boobies, &c. As an example of what is advanced, I remark that the *golden-creſted wren* (the ſmalleſt *Britiſh* bird) will ſtand unconcerned till you come within three or four yards of it, while the *buſtard (otis)*, the largeſt *Britiſh* land fowl, does not care to admit a perſon within ſo many furlongs. I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER III.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Jan. 15, 1770.

IT was no ſmall matter of ſatisfaction to me to find that you were not diſpleaſed with my little *methodus* of birds. If there was any merit in the ſketch, it muſt be owing to it's punctuality. For many months I carried a liſt in my pocket of the birds that were to be remarked, and, as I rode or walked about my buſineſs, I noted each day the continuance or omiſſion of each bird's ſong; ſo that I am as ſure of the certainty of my facts as a man can be of any tranſaction whatſoever.

I ſhall now proceed to anſwer the ſeveral queries which you put in your two obliging letters, in the beſt manner that I am able. Perhaps *Eaſtwick*, and it's environs, where you heard ſo very few birds, is not a woodland country, and therefore not ſtocked with ſuch ſongſters. If you will caſt your eye on my laſt letter, you will find that many ſpecies continued to warble after the beginning of *July*.

The titlark and yellowhammer breed late, the latter very late; and therefore it is no wonder that they protract their ſong: for I lay it down as a maxim in ornithology, that as long as there is any incubation going on there is muſic. As to the redbreaſt and wren, it is well known to the moſt incurious obſerver that they whiſtle the year round, hard froſt excepted; eſpecially the latter.

It was not in my power to procure you a black-cap, or a leſs reed-ſparrow, or ſedge-bird, alive. As the firſt is undoubtedly, and the laſt, as far as I can yet ſee, a ſummer bird of paſſage, they would require more nice and curious management in a cage than I ſhould be able to give them: they are both diſtinguiſhed ſongſters. The note of the former has ſuch a wild ſweetneſs that it always brings to my mind thoſe lines in a ſong in "*As You Like It.*"

> "And tune his merry note
> "Unto the *wild* bird's throat." SHAKESPEARE.

The latter has a ſurpriſing variety of notes reſembling the ſong of ſeveral other birds; but then it has alſo an hurrying manner, not at all to it's advantage: it is notwithſtanding a delicate polyglot.

It is new to me that titlarks in cages ſing in the night; perhaps only caged birds do ſo. I once knew a tame redbreaſt in a cage that always ſang as long as candles were in the room; but in their wild ſtate no one ſuppoſes they ſing in the night.

I ſhould be almoſt ready to doubt the fact, that there are to be ſeen much fewer birds in *July* than in any former month, notwithſtanding ſo many young are hatched daily. Sure I am that it is far otherwiſe with reſpect to the *ſwallow tribe*, which increaſes prodigiouſly as the ſummer advances: and I ſaw, at the time mentioned, many hundreds of young wagtails on the banks of the *Cherwell*, which almoſt covered the meadows. If the matter appears as you ſay in the other ſpecies, may it not be owing to the dams being engaged in incubation, while the young are concealed by the leaves?

Many

Many times have I had the curioſity to open the ſtomachs of *woodcocks* and *ſnipes*; but nothing ever occurred that helped to explain to me what their ſubſiſtence might be: all that I could ever find was a ſoft mucus, among which lay many pellucid ſmall gravels. I am, &c.

LETTER IV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Feb. 19, 1770.

YOUR obſervation that "the *cuckoo* does not depoſit it's egg indiſcriminately in the neſt of the firſt bird that comes in it's way, "but probably looks out a nurſe in ſome degree congenerous, "with whom to intruſt it's young," is perfectly new to me; and ſtruck me ſo forcibly, that I naturally fell into a train of thought that led me to conſider whether the fact was ſo, and what reaſon there was for it. When I came to recollect and inquire, I could not find that any cuckoo had ever been ſeen in theſe parts, except in the neſt of the *wagtail*, the *hedge-ſparrow*, the *titlark*, the *white-throat*, and the *redbreaſt*, all ſoft-billed inſectivorous birds. The excellent Mr. *Willughby* mentions the neſt of the *palumbus (ring-dove)*, and of the *fringilla (chaffinch)*, birds that ſubſiſt on acorns and grains, and ſuch hard food: but then he does not mention them as of his own knowledge; but ſays afterwards

wards that he ſaw himſelf a *wagtail* feeding a cuckoo. It appears hardly poſſible that a ſoft-billed bird ſhould ſubſiſt on the ſame food with the hard-billed: for the former have thin membranaceous ſtomachs ſuited to their ſoft food; while the latter, the granivorous tribe, have ſtrong muſcular gizzards, which, like mills, grind, by the help of ſmall gravels and pebbles, what is ſwallowed. This proceeding of the cuckoo, of dropping it's eggs as it were by chance, is ſuch a monſtrous outrage on maternal affection, one of the firſt great dictates of nature; and ſuch a violence on inſtinct; that, had it only been related of a bird in the *Braſils*, or *Peru*, it would never have merited our belief. But yet, ſhould it farther appear that this ſimple bird, when diveſted of that natural στοργὴ that ſeems to raiſe the kind in general above themſelves, and inſpire them with extraordinary degrees of cunning and addreſs, may be ſtill endued with a more enlarged faculty of diſcerning what ſpecies are ſuitable and congenerous nurſing-mothers for it's diſregarded eggs and young, and may depoſit them only under *their* care, this would be adding wonder to wonder, and inſtancing, in a freſh manner, that the methods of Providence are not ſubjected to any mode or rule, but aſtoniſh us in new lights, and in various and changeable appearances.

What was ſaid by a very ancient and ſublime writer concerning the defect of natural affection in the oſtrich, may be well applied to the bird we are talking of:

"*She is hardened againſt her young ones, as though they were not* "*her's:*

"*Becauſe God hath deprived her of wiſdom, neither hath he imparted* "*to her underſtanding*[s]."

[s] Job xxxix. 16, 17.

Query.

Query. Does each female cuckoo lay but one egg in a ſeaſon, or does ſhe drop ſeveral in different neſts according as opportunity offers? I am, &c.

LETTER V.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, April 12, 1770.

I HEARD many birds of ſeveral ſpecies ſing laſt year after *Midſummer*; enough to prove that the ſummer ſolſtice is not the period that puts a ſtop to the muſic of the woods. The yellowhammer no doubt perſiſts with more ſteadineſs than any other; but the woodlark, the wren, the redbreaſt, the ſwallow, the white-throat, the goldfinch, the common linnet, are all undoubted inſtances of the truth of what I advanced.

If this ſevere ſeaſon does not interrupt the regularity of the ſummer migrations, the blackcap will be here in two or three days. I wiſh it was in my power to procure you one of thoſe ſongſters; but I am no birdcatcher; and ſo little uſed to birds in a cage, that I fear if I had one it would ſoon die for want of ſkill in feeding.

Was

Was your reed-ſparrow, which you kept in a cage, the thick-billed reed-ſparrow of the Zoology, p. 320; or was it the leſs reed-ſparrow of *Ray*, the *ſedge-bird* of Mr. *Pennant*'s laſt publication, p. 16?

As to the matter of long-billed birds growing fatter in moderate froſts, I have no doubt within myſelf what ſhould be the reaſon. The thriving at thoſe times appears to me to ariſe altogether from the gentle check which the cold throws upon inſenſible perſpiration. The caſe is juſt the ſame with blackbirds, &c.; and farmers and warreners obſerve, the firſt, that their hogs fat more kindly at ſuch times, and the latter that their rabbits are never in ſuch good caſe as in a gentle froſt. But when froſts are ſevere, and of long continuance, the caſe is ſoon altered; for then a want of food ſoon overbalances the repletion occaſioned by a checked perſpiration. I have obſerved, moreover, that ſome human conſtitutions are more inclined to plumpneſs in winter than in ſummer.

When birds come to ſuffer by ſevere froſt, I find that the firſt that fail and die are the redwing-fieldfares, and then the ſong-thruſhes.

You wonder, with good reaſon, that the hedge-ſparrows, &c. can be induced at all to ſit on the egg of the cuckoo without being ſcandalized at the vaſt diſproportioned ſize of the ſuppoſititious egg; but the brute creation, I ſuppoſe, have very little idea of ſize, colour, or number. For the common hen, I know, when the fury of incubation is on her, will ſit on a ſingle ſhapeleſs ſtone inſtead of a neſt full of eggs that have been withdrawn: and, moreover, a hen-turkey, in the ſame circumſtances, would ſit on in the empty neſt till ſhe periſhed with hunger.

I think the matter might eaſily be determined whether a cuckoo lays one or two eggs, or more, in a ſeaſon, by opening a female during

during the laying-time. If more than one was come down out of the ovary, and advanced to a good ſize, doubtleſs then ſhe would that ſpring lay more than one.

I will endeavour to get a hen, and to examine.

Your ſuppoſition that there may be ſome natural obſtruction in ſinging birds while they are mute, and that when this is removed the ſong recommences, is new and bold: I wiſh you could diſcover ſome good grounds for this ſuſpicion.

I was glad you were pleaſed with my ſpecimen of the *caprimulgus*, or fern-owl; you were, I find, acquainted with the bird before.

When we meet I ſhall be glad to have ſome converſation with you concerning the propoſal you make of my drawing up an account of the animals in this neighbourhood. Your partiality towards my ſmall abilities perſuades you, I fear, that I am able to do more than is in my power: for it is no ſmall undertaking for a man unſupported and alone to begin a natural hiſtory from his own autopſia! Though there is endleſs room for obſervation in the field of nature, which is boundleſs, yet inveſtigation (where a man endeavours to be ſure of his facts) can make but ſlow progreſs; and all that one could collect in many years would go into a very narrow compaſs.

Some extracts from your ingenious "Inveſtigations of the difference between the preſent temperature of the air in Italy," &c. have fallen in my way; and gave me great ſatisfaction: they have removed the objections that always aroſe in my mind whenever I came to the paſſages which you quote. Surely the judicious *Virgil*, when writing a didactic poem for the region of *Italy*, could never think of deſcribing freezing rivers, unleſs ſuch ſeverity of weather pretty frequently occurred!

P. S. Swallows appear amidſt ſnows and froſt.

LETTER VI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, May 21, 1770.

THE ſeverity and turbulence of laſt month ſo interrupted the regular proceſs of ſummer migration, that ſome of the birds do but juſt begin to ſhew themſelves, and others are apparently thinner than uſual; as the white-throat, the black-cap, the redſtart, the fly-catcher. I well remember that after the very ſevere ſpring in the year 1739-40 ſummer birds of paſſage were very ſcarce. They come probably hither with a ſouth-eaſt wind, or when it blows between thoſe points; but in that unfavourable year the winds blowed the whole ſpring and ſummer through from the oppoſite quarters. And yet amidſt all theſe diſadvantages two ſwallows, as I mentioned in my laſt, appeared this year as early as the eleventh of *April* amidſt froſt and ſnow; but they withdrew again for a time.

I am not pleaſed to find that ſome people ſeem ſo little ſatisfied with *Scopoli*'s new publication [t]; there is room to expect great things from the hands of that man, who is a good naturaliſt: and one would think that an hiſtory of the birds of ſo diſtant and ſouthern a region as *Carniola* would be new and intereſting. I could wiſh to ſee that work, and hope to get it ſent down. Dr. *Scopoli* is phyſician to the wretches that work in the quickſilver mines of that diſtrict.

When you talked of keeping a reed-ſparrow, and giving it ſeeds, I could not help wondering; becauſe the reed-ſparrow which I mentioned to you *(paſſer arundinaceus minor Raii)* is a ſoft-billed bird; and moſt probably migrates hence before winter;

[t] This work he calls his *Annus Primus Hiſtorico Naturalis.*

whereas

whereas the bird you kept *(paſſer torquatus Raii)* abides all the year, and is a thick-billed bird. I queſtion whether the latter be much of a ſongſter; but in this matter I want to be better informed. The former has a variety of hurrying notes, and ſings all night. Some part of the ſong of the former, I ſuſpect, is attributed to the latter. We have plenty of the ſoft-billed ſort; which Mr. *Pennant* had entirely left out of his *Britiſh Zoology*, till I reminded him of his omiſſion. See *Britiſh Zoology* laſt publiſhed, p. 16 [x].

I have ſomewhat to advance on the different manners in which different birds fly and walk; but as this is a ſubject that I have not enough conſidered, and is of ſuch a nature as not to be contained in a ſmall ſpace, I ſhall ſay nothing further about it at preſent [y].

No doubt the reaſon why the ſex of birds in their firſt plumage is ſo difficult to be diſtinguiſhed is, as you ſay, "becauſe they "are not to pair and diſcharge their parental functions till the "enſuing ſpring." As colours ſeem to be the chief external ſexual diſtinction in many birds, theſe colours do not take place till ſexual attachments begin to obtain. And the caſe is the ſame in quadrupeds; among whom, in their younger days, the ſexes differ but little: but, as they advance to maturity, horns and ſhaggy manes, beards and brawny necks, &c. &c. ſtrongly diſcriminate the male from the female. We may inſtance ſtill farther in our own ſpecies, where a beard and ſtronger features are uſually characteriſtic of the male ſex: but this ſexual diverſity does not take place in earlier life; for a beautiful youth ſhall be ſo like a beautiful girl that the difference ſhall not be diſcernible;

"Quem ſi puellarum inſereres choro,
"Mirè ſagaces falleret hoſpites
"Diſcrimen obſcurum, ſolutis
"Crinibus, ambiguoque vultu." HOR.

[x] See letter xxv. to Mr. *Pennant*. [y] See letter xlii. to Mr. *Barrington*.

LETTER VII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, RINGMER, near LEWES, Oct. 8, 1770.

I AM glad to hear that *Kuckalm* is to furniſh you with the birds of *Jamaica*; a ſight of the *hirundines* of that hot and diſtant iſland would be a great entertainment to me.

The *Anni of Scopoli* are now in my poſſeſſion; and I have read the *Annus Primus* with ſatisfaction: for though ſome parts of this work are exceptionable, and he may advance ſome miſtaken obſervations; yet the ornithology of ſo diſtant a country as *Carniola* is very curious. Men that undertake only one diſtrict are much more likely to advance natural knowledge than thoſe that graſp at more than they can poſſibly be acquainted with: every kingdom, every province, ſhould have it's own *monographer*.

The reaſon perhaps why he mentions nothing of *Ray*'s Ornithology may be the extreme poverty and diſtance of his country, into which the works of our great naturaliſt may have never yet found their way. You have doubts, I know, whether this Ornithology is genuine, and really the work of *Scopoli:* as to myſelf, I think I diſcover ſtrong tokens of authenticity; the ſtyle correſponds with that of his *Entomology*; and his characters of his Ordines and Genera are many of them new, expreſſive, and maſterly. He has ventured to alter ſome of the *Linnæan genera* with ſufficient ſhew of reaſon.

It might perhaps be mere accident that you ſaw ſo many ſwifts and no ſwallows at *Staines*; becauſe, in my long obſervation of thoſe

thoſe birds, I never could diſcover the leaſt degree of rivalry or hoſtility between the ſpecies.

Ray remarks that birds of the *gallinæ order*, as cocks and hens, partridges, and pheaſants, &c. are *pulveratrices*, ſuch as duſt themſelves, uſing that method of cleanſing their feathers, and ridding themſelves of their vermin. As far as I can obſerve, many birds that duſt themſelves never waſh: and I once thought that thoſe birds that waſh themſelves would never duſt; but here I find myſelf miſtaken; for common houſe-ſparrows are great *pulveratrices*, being frequently ſeen grovelling and wallowing in duſty roads; and yet they are great waſhers. Does not the ſkylark duſt?

Query. Might not *Mahomet* and his followers take one method of purification from theſe *pulveratrices*? becauſe I find from travellers of credit, that if a ſtrict muſſulman is journeying in a ſandy deſert where no water is to be found, at ſtated hours he ſtrips off his clothes, and moſt ſcrupulouſly rubs his body over with ſand or duſt.

A countryman told me he had found a young *fern-owl* in the neſt of a ſmall bird on the ground; and that it was fed by the little bird. I went to ſee this extraordinary phenomenon, and found that it was a young cuckoo hatched in the neſt of a titlark: it was become vaſtly too big for it's neſt, appearing

— — — — — in tenui re
Majores pennas nido extendiſſe — —

and was very fierce and pugnacious, purſuing my finger, as I teazed it, for many feet from the neſt, and ſparring and buffetting with it's wings like a game-cock. The dupe of a dam appeared at a diſtance, hovering about with meat in it's mouth, and expreſſing the greateſt ſolicitude.

In

In *July* I ſaw ſeveral cuckoos ſkimming over a large pond; and found, after ſome obſervation, that they were feeding on the *libellulæ*, or *dragon-flies*; ſome of which they caught as they ſettled on the weeds, and ſome as they were on the wing. Notwithſtanding what *Linnæus* ſays, I cannot be induced to believe that they are birds of prey.

This diſtrict affords ſome birds that are hardly ever heard of at *Selborne*. In the firſt place conſiderable flocks of *croſs-beaks (loxiæ curviroſtræ)* have appeared this ſummer in the pine-groves belonging to this houſe; the *water-ouſel* is ſaid to haunt the mouth of the *Lewes* river, near *Newhaven*; and the *Corniſh chough* builds, I know, all along the chalky cliffs of the *Suſſex* ſhore.

I was greatly pleaſed to ſee little parties of *ring-ouſels* (my newly diſcovered migraters) ſcattered, at intervals, all along the *Suſſex* downs from *Chicheſter* to *Lewes*. Let them come from whence they will, it looks very ſuſpicious that they are cantoned along the coaſt in order to paſs the channel when ſevere weather advances. They viſit us again in *April*, as it ſhould ſeem, in their return; and are not to be found in the dead of winter. It is remarkable that they are very tame, and ſeem to have no manner of apprehenſions of danger from a perſon with a gun. There are buſtards on the wide downs near *Brighthelmſtone*. No doubt you are acquainted with the *Suſſex* downs: the proſpects and rides round *Lewes* are moſt lovely!

As I rode along near the coaſt I kept a very ſharp look out in the lanes and woods, hoping I might, at this time of the year, have diſcovered ſome of the ſummer ſhort-winged birds of paſſage crowding towards the coaſt in order for their departure: but it was very extraordinary that I never ſaw a redſtart, white-throat, black-cap, uncreſted wren, fly-catcher, &c. And I remember to have made the ſame remark in former years, as I uſually come to this

this place annually about this time. The birds moſt common along the coaſt at preſent are the ſtone-chatters, whinchats, buntings, linnets, ſome few wheat-ears, titlarks, &c. Swallows and houſe-martins abound yet, induced to prolong their ſtay by this ſoft, ſtill, dry ſeaſon.

A land tortoiſe, which has been kept for thirty years in a little walled court belonging to the houſe where I now am viſiting, retires under ground about the middle of *November*, and comes forth again about the middle of *April*. When it firſt appears in the ſpring it diſcovers very little inclination towards food; but in the height of ſummer grows voracious: and then as the ſummer declines it's appetite declines; ſo that for the laſt ſix weeks in autumn it hardly eats at all. Milky plants, ſuch as lettuces, dandelions, ſowthiſtles, are it's favourite diſh. In a neighbouring village one was kept till by tradition it was ſuppoſed to be an hundred years old. An inſtance of vaſt longevity in ſuch a poor reptile!

LETTER VIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Dec. 20, 1770.

THE birds that I took for *aberdavines* were reed-ſparrows *(paſſeres torquati.)*

There are doubtleſs many home internal migrations within this kingdom that want to be better underſtood: witneſs thoſe vaſt flocks of hen chaffinches that appear with us in the winter without hardly any cocks among them. Now was there a due proportion

of each ſex, it ſhould ſeem very improbable that any one diſtrict ſhould produce ſuch numbers of theſe little birds; and much more when only one half of the ſpecies appears: therefore we may conclude that the *fringillæ cælebes*, for ſome good purpoſes, have a peculiar migration of their own in which the ſexes part. Nor ſhould it ſeem ſo wonderful that the intercourſe of ſexes in this ſpecies of birds ſhould be interrupted in winter; ſince in many animals, and particularly in bucks and does, the ſexes herd ſeparately, except at the ſeaſon when commerce is neceſſary for the continuance of the breed. For this matter of the chaffinches ſee *Fauna Suecica*, p. 85, and *Syſtema Naturæ*, p. 318. I ſee every winter vaſt flights of hen chaffinches, but none of cocks.

Your method of accounting for the periodical motions of the *Britiſh* finging birds, or birds of flight, is a very probable one; ſince the matter of food is a great regulator of the actions and proceedings of the brute creation: there is but one that can be ſet in competition with it, and that is love. But I cannot quite acquieſce with you in one circumſtance when you advance that, "when they have "thus feaſted, they again ſeparate into ſmall parties of five or ſix, "and get the beſt fare they can within a certain diſtrict, having "no inducement to go in queſt of freſh-turned earth." Now if you mean that the buſineſs of congregating is quite at an end from the concluſion of wheat-ſowing to the ſeaſon of barley and oats, it is not the caſe with us; for larks and chaffinches, and particularly linnets, flock and congregate as much in the very dead of winter as when the huſbandman is buſy with his ploughs and harrows.

Sure there can be no doubt but that woodcocks and fieldfares leave us in the ſpring, in order to croſs the ſeas, and to retire to ſome diſtricts more ſuitable to the purpoſe of breeding. That the former

former pair before they retire, and that the hens are forward with egg, I myſelf, when I was a ſportſman, have often experienced. It cannot indeed be denied but that now and then we hear of a woodcock's neſt, or young birds, diſcovered in ſome part or other of this iſland: but then they are always mentioned as rarities, and ſomewhat out of the common courſe of things: but as to redwings and fieldfares, no ſportſman or naturaliſt has ever yet, that I could hear, pretended to have found the neſt or young of thoſe ſpecies in any part of theſe kingdoms. And I the more admire at this inſtance as extraordinary, ſince, to all appearance, the ſame food in ſummer as well as in winter might ſupport them here which maintains their congeners, the blackbirds and thruſhes, did they chuſe to ſtay the ſummer through. From hence it appears that it is not food alone which determines ſome ſpecies of birds with regard to their ſtay or departure. Fieldfares and redwings diſappear ſooner or later according as the warm weather comes on earlier or later. For I well remember, after that dreadful winter 1739-40, that cold north-eaſt winds continued to blow on through *April* and *May*, and that theſe kinds of birds (what few remained of them) did not depart as uſual, but were ſeen lingering about till the beginning of *June*.

The beſt authority that we can have for the nidification of the birds above mentioned in any diſtrict, is the teſtimony of faunifts that have written profeſſedly the natural hiſtory of particular countries. Now, as to the fieldfare, *Linnæus*, in his Fauna Suecica, ſays of it that "*maximis in arboribus nidificat:*" and of the redwing he ſays, in the ſame place, that "*nidificat in mediis arbuſculis, ſive ſepibus: ova ſex cæruleo-viridia maculis nigris variis.*" Hence we may be aſſured that fieldfares and redwings breed in *Sweden*. *Scopoli* ſays, in his *Annus Primus*, of the woodcock, that "*nupta ad nos venit circa æquinoctium vernale:*" meaning in *Tirol*, of which he is a native. And

afterwards he adds "*nidificat in paludibus alpinis : ova ponit 3 - - - 5.*" It does not appear from *Kramer* that woodcocks breed at all in *Auſtria:* but he ſays "*Avis hæc ſeptentrionalium provinciarum æſtivo* "*tempore incola eſt; ubi plerumque nidificat. Appropinquante hyeme* "*auſtraliores provincias petit : hinc circa plenilunium menſis Octobris plerum-* "*que Auſtriam tranſmigrat. Tunc rurſus circa plenilunium potiſſimum menſis* "*Martii per Auſtriam matrimonio juncta ad ſeptentrionales provincias* "*redit.*" For the whole paſſage (which I have abridged) ſee *Elenchus*, &c. p. 351. This ſeems to be a full proof of the migration of woodcocks; though little is proved concerning the place of breeding.

P. S. There fell in the county of *Rutland*, in three weeks of this preſent very wet weather, ſeven inches and an half of rain, which is more than has fallen in any three weeks for theſe thirty years paſt in that part of the world. A mean quantity in that county for one year is twenty inches and an half.

LETTER IX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, FYFIELD, near ANDOVER, Feb. 12, 1772.

You are, I know, no great friend to migration; and the well atteſted accounts from various parts of the kingdom ſeem to juſtify you in your ſuſpicions, that at leaſt many of the ſwallow kind do not

not leave us in the winter, but lay themſelves up like inſects and bats, in a torpid ſtate, and ſlumber away the more uncomfortable months till the return of the ſun and fine weather awakens them.

But then we muſt not, I think, deny migration in general; becauſe migration certainly does ſubſiſt in ſome places, as my brother in *Andaluſia* has fully informed me. Of the motions of theſe birds he has ocular demonſtration, for many weeks together, both ſpring and fall: during which periods myriads of the ſwallow kind traverſe the Straits from north to ſouth, and from ſouth to north, according to the ſeaſon. And theſe vaſt migrations conſiſt not only of *hirundines* but of *bee-birds*, *hoopoes*, *oro pendolos*, *or golden thruſhes*, &c. &c. and alſo of many of our *ſoft-billed ſummer birds of paſſage*; and moreover of birds which never leave us, ſuch as all the various ſorts of hawks and kites. Old *Belon*, two hundred years ago, gives a curious account of the incredible armies of hawks and kites which he ſaw in the ſpring-time traverſing the *Thracian Boſphorus* from *Aſia* to *Europe*. Beſides the above mentioned, he remarks that the proceſſion is ſwelled by whole troops of eagles and vultures.

Now it is no wonder that birds reſiding in *Africa* ſhould retreat before the ſun as it advances, and retire to milder regions, and eſpecially birds of prey, whoſe blood being heated with hot animal food, are more impatient of a ſultry climate: but then I cannot help wondering why kites and hawks, and ſuch hardy birds as are known to defy all the ſeverity of *England*, and even of *Sweden* and all north *Europe*, ſhould want to migrate from the ſouth of *Europe*, and be diſſatisfied with the winters of *Andaluſia*.

It does not appear to me that much ſtreſs may be laid on the difficulty and hazard that birds muſt run in their migrations, by reaſon of vaſt oceans, croſs winds, &c.; becauſe, if we reflect, a bird may travel from *England* to the equator without launching out and

expoſing itſelf to boundleſs ſeas, and that by croſſing the water at *Dover*, and again at *Gibraltar*. And I with the more confidence advance this obvious remark, becauſe my brother has always found that ſome of his birds, and particularly the ſwallow kind, are very ſparing of their pains in croſſing the *Mediterranean:* for when arrived at *Gibraltar* they do not

— — — "Rang'd in figure wedge their way,
— — — — — "And ſet forth
"Their airy caravan high over ſeas
"Flying, and over lands with mutual wing
"Eaſing their flight:" — — — — MILTON.

but ſcout and hurry along in little detached parties of ſix or ſeven in a company; and ſweeping low, juſt over the ſurface of the land and water, direct their courſe to the oppoſite continent at the narroweſt paſſage they can find. They uſually ſlope acroſs the bay to the ſouth-weſt, and ſo paſs over oppoſite to *Tangier*, which, it ſeems, is the narroweſt ſpace.

In former letters we have conſidered whether it was probable that woodcocks in moon-ſhiny nights croſs the *German* ocean from *Scandinavia*. As a proof that birds of leſs ſpeed may paſs that ſea, conſiderable as it is, I ſhall relate the following incident, which, though mentioned to have happened ſo many years ago, was ſtrictly matter of fact:—As ſome people were ſhooting in the pariſh of *Trotton*, in the county of *Suſſex*, they killed a duck in that dreadful winter 1708-9, with a ſilver collar about it's neck[z], on which were engraven the arms of the king of *Denmark*. This anecdote the rector of *Trotton* at that time has often told to a near relation of mine; and, to the beſt of my remembrance, the collar was in the poſſeſſion of the rector.

[z] I have read a like anecdote of a ſwan.

At

At preſent I do not know any body near the ſea-ſide that will take the trouble to remark at what time of the moon woodcocks firſt come: if I lived near the ſea myſelf I would ſoon tell you more of the matter. One thing I uſed to obſerve when I was a ſportſman, that there were times in which woodcocks were ſo ſluggiſh and ſleepy that they would drop again when ſluſhed juſt before the ſpaniels, nay juſt at the muzzle of a gun that had been fired at them: whether this ſtrange lazineſs was the effect of a recent fatiguing journey I ſhall not preſume to ſay.

Nightingales not only never reach *Northumberland* and *Scotland*, but alſo, as I have been always told, *Devonſhire* and *Cornwall*. In thoſe two laſt counties we cannot attribute the failure of them to the want of warmth: the defect in the weſt is rather a preſumptive argument that theſe birds come over to us from the continent at the narroweſt paſſage, and do not ſtroll ſo far weſtward.

Let me hear from your own obſervation whether ſkylarks do not duſt. I think they do: and if they do, whether they waſh alſo.

The *alauda pratenſis of Ray* was the poor dupe that was educating the booby of a cuckoo mentioned in my letter of *October* laſt.

Your letter came too late for me to procure a ring-ouſel for Mr. *Tunſtal* during their autumnal viſit; but I will endeavour to get him one when they call on us again in *April*. I am glad that you and that gentleman ſaw my *Andaluſian* birds; I hope they anſwered your expectation. *Royſton*, or grey crows, are winter birds that come much about the ſame time with the woodcock: they, like the fieldfare and redwing, have no apparent reaſon for migration; for as they fare in the winter like their congeners, ſo might they in all appearance in the ſummer. Was not *Tenant*, when a boy, miſtaken? did he not find a miſſel-thruſh's neſt, and take it for the neſt of a fieldfare?

The

The ſtock-dove, or wood-pigeon, *œnas Raii*, is the laſt winter bird of paſſage which appears with us; and is not ſeen till towards the end of *November:* about twenty years ago they abounded in the diſtrict of *Selborne*; and ſtrings of them were ſeen morning and evening that reached a mile or more: but ſince the beechen woods have been greatly thinned they are much decreaſed in number. The ring-dove, *palumbus Raii*, ſtays with us the whole year, and breeds ſeveral times through the ſummer.

Before I received your letter of *October* laſt I had juſt remarked in my journal that the trees were unuſually green. This uncommon verdure laſted on late into *November*; and may be accounted for from a late ſpring, a cool and moiſt ſummer; but more particularly from vaſt armies of chafers, or tree-beetles, which, in many places, reduced whole woods to a leafleſs naked ſtate. Theſe trees ſhot again at *Midſummer*, and then retained their foliage till very late in the year.

My muſical friend, at whoſe houſe I am now viſiting, has tried all the owls that are his near neighbours with a pitch-pipe ſet at concert-pitch, and finds they all hoot in B flat. He will examine the nightingales next ſpring. I am, &c. &c.

LETTER

LETTER X.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, *Aug.* 1, 1771.

FROM what follows, it will appear that neither owls nor cuckoos keep to one note. A friend remarks that many (moſt) of his owls hoot in B flat; but that one went almoſt half a note below A. The pipe he tried their notes by was a common half-crown pitch-pipe, ſuch as maſters uſe for tuning of harpſichords; it was the common *London* pitch.

A neighbour of mine, who is ſaid to have a nice ear, remarks that the owls about this village hoot in three different keys, in G flat, or F ſharp, in B flat and A flat. He heard two hooting to each other, the one in A flat, and the other in B flat. *Query:* Do theſe different notes proceed from different ſpecies, or only from various individuals? The ſame perſon finds upon trial that the note of the cuckoo (of which we have but one ſpecies) varies in different individuals; for, about *Selborne* wood, he found they were moſtly in D: he heard two ſing together, the one in D, the other in D ſharp, who made a diſagreeable concert: he afterwards heard one in D ſharp, and about *Woolmer-foreſt* ſome in C. As to nightingales, he ſays that their notes are ſo ſhort, and their tranſitions ſo rapid, that he cannot well aſcertain their key. Perhaps in a cage, and in a room, their notes may be more diſtinguiſhable. This perſon has tried to ſettle the notes of a ſwift, and of ſeveral other ſmall birds, but cannot bring them to any criterion.

As

As I have often remarked that redwings are ſome of the firſt birds that ſuffer with us in ſevere weather, it is no wonder at all that they retreat from *Scandinavian* winters: and much more the *ordo* of *grallæ*, who, all to a bird, forſake the northern parts of *Europe* at the approach of winter. "*Grallæ tanquam conjuratæ unanimiter in "fugam ſe conjiciunt; ne earum unicam quidem inter nos habitantem in- "venire poſſimus; ut enim æſtate in auſtralibus degere nequeunt ob defectum "lumbricorum, terramque ſiccam; ita nec in frigidis ob eandem cauſam*", ſays *Ekmarck* the *Swede*, in his ingenious little treatiſe called *Migrationes Avium*, which by all means you ought to read while your thoughts run on the ſubject of migration. See *Amœnitates Academicæ*, vol. 4, p. 565.

Birds may be ſo circumſtanced as to be obliged to migrate in one country and not in another: but the *grallæ*, (which procure their food from marſhes and boggy grounds) muſt in winter forſake the more northerly parts of *Europe*, or periſh for want of food.

I am glad you are making inquiries from *Linnæus* concerning the woodcock: it is expected of him that he ſhould be able to account for the motions and manner of life of the animals of his own *Fauna*.

Faunifts, as you obſerve, are too apt to acquieſce in bare deſcriptions, and a few ſynonyms: the reaſon is plain; becauſe all that may be done at home in a man's ſtudy, but the inveſtigation of the life and converſation of animals, is a concern of much more trouble and difficulty, and is not to be attained but by the active and inquiſitive, and by thoſe that reſide much in the country.

Foreign ſyſtematics are, I obſerve, much too vague in their ſpecific differences; which are almoſt univerſally conſtituted by one or two particular marks, the reſt of the deſcription running in general terms. But our countryman, the excellent Mr. *Ray*, is

the only deſcriber that conveys ſome preciſe idea in every term or word, maintaining his ſuperiority over his followers and imitators in ſpite of the advantage of freſh diſcoveries and modern information.

At this diſtance of years it is not in my power to recollect at what periods woodcocks uſed to be ſluggiſh or alert when I was a ſportſman: but, upon my mentioning this circumſtance to a friend, he thinks he has obſerved them to be remarkably liſtleſs againſt ſnowy foul weather: if this ſhould be the caſe, then the inaptitude for flying ariſes only from an eagerneſs for food; as ſheep are obſerved to be very intent on grazing againſt ſtormy wet evenings.

I am, &c. &c.

LETTER XI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Feb. 8, 1772.

WHEN I ride about in the winter, and ſee ſuch prodigious flocks of various kinds of birds, I cannot help admiring at theſe congregations, and wiſhing that it was in my power to account for thoſe appearances almoſt peculiar to the ſeaſon. The two great motives which regulate the proceedings of the brute creation are love and hunger; the former incites animals to perpetuate their kind, the

latter induces them to preſerve individuals: whether either of theſe ſhould ſeem to be the ruling paſſion in the matter of congregating is to be conſidered. As to love, that is out of the queſtion at a time of the year when that ſoft paſſion is not indulged: beſides, during the amorous ſeaſon, ſuch a jealouſy prevails between the male birds that they can hardly bear to be together in the ſame hedge or field. Moſt of the ſinging and elation of ſpirits of that time ſeem to me to be the effect of rivalry and emulation: and it is to this ſpirit of jealouſy that I chiefly attribute the equal diſperſion of birds in the ſpring over the face of the country.

Now as to the buſineſs of food: as theſe animals are actuated by inſtinct to hunt for neceſſary food, they ſhould not, one would ſuppoſe, crowd together in purſuit of ſuſtenance at a time when it is moſt likely to fail; yet ſuch aſſociations do take place in hard weather chiefly, and thicken as the ſeverity increaſes. As ſome kind of ſelf-intereſt and ſelf-defence is no doubt the motive for the proceeding, may it not ariſe from the helpleſſneſs of their ſtate in ſuch rigorous ſeaſons; as men crowd together, when under great calamities, though they know not why? Perhaps approximation may diſpel ſome degree of cold; and a crowd may make each individual appear ſafer from the ravages of birds of prey and other dangers.

If I admire when I ſee how much congenerous birds love to congregate, I am the more ſtruck when I ſee incongruous ones in ſuch ſtrict amity. If we do not much wonder to ſee a flock of rooks uſually attended by a train of daws, yet it is ſtrange that the former ſhould ſo frequently have a flight of ſtarlings for their ſatellites. Is it becauſe rooks have a more diſcerning ſcent than their attendants, and can lead them to ſpots more productive of food? Anatomiſts ſay that rooks, by reaſon of two large nerves which run down between the eyes into the upper mandible, have a more delicate feeling in their beaks than other round-billed birds, and can grope

for

for their meat when out of ſight. Perhaps then their aſſociates attend them on the motive of intereſt, as greyhounds wait on the motions of their finders; and as lions are ſaid to do on the yelpings of jackalls. Lapwings and ſtarlings ſometimes aſſociate.

LETTER XII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, March 9, 1772.

As a gentleman and myſelf were walking on the fourth of laſt *November* round the ſea-banks at *Newhaven*, near the mouth of the *Lewes* river, in purſuit of natural knowledge, we were ſurpriſed to ſee three houſe-ſwallows gliding very ſwiftly by us. That morning was rather chilly, with the wind at north-weſt; but the tenor of the weather for ſome time before had been delicate, and the noons remarkably warm. From this incident, and from repeated accounts which I meet with, I am more and more induced to believe that many of the ſwallow kind do not depart from this iſland; but lay themſelves up in holes and caverns; and do, inſect-like and bat-like, come forth at mild times, and then retire again to their *latebræ*. Nor make I the leaſt doubt but that, if I lived at *Newhaven*, *Seaford*, *Brightkelmſtone*, or any of thoſe towns near the chalk-cliffs of the *Suſſex* coaſt, by proper obſervations, I ſhould ſee ſwallows ſtirring at periods of the winter, when the noons were ſoft and inviting, and the ſun warm and invigorating. And I am the more of this

opinion from what I have remarked during ſome of our late ſprings, that though ſome ſwallows did make their appearance about the uſual time, *viz.* the thirteenth or fourteenth of *April*, yet meeting with an harſh reception, and bluſtering cold north-eaſt winds, they immediately withdrew, abſconding for ſeveral days, till the weather gave them better encouragement.

LETTER XIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, April 12, 1772.

WHILE I was in *Suſſex* laſt autumn my reſidence was at the village near *Lewes*, from whence I had formerly the pleaſure of writing to you. On the firſt of *November* I remarked that the old tortoiſe, formerly mentioned, began firſt to dig the ground in order to the forming it's hybernaculum, which it had fixed on juſt beſide a great tuft of hepaticas. It ſcrapes out the ground with it's fore-feet, and throws it up over it's back with it's hind; but the motion of it's legs is ridiculouſly ſlow, little exceeding the hour-hand of a clock; and ſuitable to the compoſure of an animal ſaid to be a whole month in performing one feat of copulation. Nothing can be more aſſiduous than this creature night and day in ſcooping the earth, and forcing it's great body into the cavity; but, as the noons of that ſeaſon proved unuſually warm and ſunny, it was continually interrupted, and called forth by the heat in the middle of the day; and

and though I continued there till the thirteenth of *November*, yet the work remained unfiniſhed. Harſher weather, and froſty mornings, would have quickened it's operations. No part of it's behaviour ever ſtruck me more than the extreme timidity it always expreſſes with regard to rain; for though it has a ſhell that would ſecure it againſt the wheel of a loaded cart, yet does it diſcover as much ſolicitude about rain as a lady dreſſed in all her beſt attire, ſhuffling away on the firſt ſprinklings, and running it's head up in a corner. If attended to, it becomes an excellent weather-glaſs; for as ſure as it walks elate, and as it were on tiptoe, feeding with great earneſtneſs in a morning, ſo ſure will it rain before night. It is totally a diurnal animal, and never pretends to ſtir after it becomes dark. The tortoiſe, like other reptiles, has an arbitrary ſtomach as well as lungs; and can refrain from eating as well as breathing for a great part of the year. When firſt awakened it eats nothing; nor again in the autumn before it retires: through the height of the ſummer it feeds voraciouſly, devouring all the food that comes in it's way. I was much taken with it's ſagacity in diſcerning thoſe that do it kind offices: for, as ſoon as the good old lady comes in ſight who has waited on it for more than thirty years, it hobbles towards it's benefactreſs with aukward alacrity; but remains inattentive to ſtrangers. Thus not only "*the ox knoweth his owner, and the aſs his maſter's crib* [b]," but the moſt abject reptile and torpid of beings diſtinguiſhes the hand that feeds it, and is touched with the feelings of gratitude!

I am, &c. &c.

P. S. In about three days after I left *Suſſex* the tortoiſe retired into the ground under the hepatica.

[b] Iſaiah i. 3.

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, March 26, 1773.

THE more I reflect on the στοργη of animals, the more I am aſtoniſhed at it's effects. Nor is the violence of this affection more wonderful than the ſhortneſs of it's duration. Thus every hen is in her turn the virago of the yard, in proportion to the helpleſſneſs of her brood; and will fly in the face of a dog or a ſow in defence of thoſe chickens, which in a few weeks ſhe will drive before her with relentleſs cruelty.

This affection ſublimes the paſſions, quickens the invention, and ſharpens the ſagacity of the brute creation. Thus an hen, juſt become a mother, is no longer that placid bird ſhe uſed to be, but with feathers ſtanding an end, wings hovering, and clocking note, ſhe runs about like one poſſeſſed. Dams will throw themſelves in the way of the greateſt danger in order to avert it from their progeny. Thus a partridge will tumble along before a ſportſman in order to draw away the dogs from her helpleſs covey. In the time of nidification the moſt feeble birds will aſſault the moſt rapacious. All the hirundines of a village are up in arms at the ſight of an hawk, whom they will perſecute till he leaves that diſtrict. A very exact obſerver has often remarked that a pair of ravens neſting in the rock of *Gibraltar* would ſuffer no vulture or eagle to reſt near their ſtation, but would drive them from the hill with an amazing fury: even the blue

blue thruſh at the ſeaſon of breeding would dart out from the clefts of the rocks to chaſe away the keſtril, or the ſparrow-hawk. If you ſtand near the neſt of a bird that has young, ſhe will not be induced to betray them by an inadvertent fondneſs, but will wait about at a diſtance with meat in her mouth for an hour together.

Should I farther corroborate what I have advanced above by ſome anecdotes which I probably may have mentioned before in converſation, yet you will, I truſt, pardon the repetition for the ſake of the illuſtration.

The flycatcher of the Zoology (the *ſtoparola* of *Ray*), builds every year in the vines that grow on the walls of my houſe. A pair of theſe little birds had one year inadvertently placed their neſt on a naked bough, perhaps in a ſhady time, not being aware of the inconvenience that followed. But an hot ſunny ſeaſon coming on before the brood was half fledged, the reflection of the wall became inſupportable, and muſt inevitably have deſtroyed the tender young, had not affection ſuggeſted an expedient, and prompted the parent-birds to hover over the neſt all the hotter hours, while with wings expanded, and mouths gaping for breath, they ſcreened off the heat from their ſuffering offſpring.

A farther inſtance I once ſaw of notable ſagacity in a willow-wren, which had built in a bank in my fields. This bird a friend and myſelf had obſerved as ſhe ſat in her neſt; but were particularly careful not to diſturb her, though we ſaw ſhe eyed us with ſome degree of jealouſy. Some days after as we paſſed that way we were deſirous of remarking how this brood went on; but no neſt could be found, till I happened to take up a large bundle of long green moſs, as it were, careleſſly thrown over the neſt in order to dodge the eye of any impertinent intruder.

A ſtill

A ſtill more remarkable mixture of ſagacity and inſtinct occurred to me one day as my people were pulling off the lining of an hotbed, in order to add ſome freſh dung. From out of the ſide of this bed leaped an animal with great agility that made a moſt groteſque figure; nor was it without great difficulty that it could be taken; when it proved to be a large white-bellied field-mouſe with three or four young clinging to her teats by their mouths and feet. It was amazing that the deſultory and rapid motions of this dam ſhould not oblige her litter to quit their hold, eſpecially when it appeared that they were ſo young as to be both naked and blind!

To theſe inſtances of tender attachment, many more of which might be daily diſcovered by thoſe that are ſtudious of nature, may be oppoſed that rage of affection, that monſtrous perverſion of the στοργη, which induces ſome females of the brute creation to devour their young becauſe their owners have handled them too freely, or removed them from place to place! Swine, and ſometimes the more gentle race of dogs and cats, are guilty of this horrid and prepoſterous murder. When I hear now and then of an abandoned mother that deſtroys her offſpring, I am not ſo much amazed; ſince reaſon perverted, and the bad paſſions let looſe, are capable of any enormity: but why the parental feelings of brutes, that uſually flow in one moſt uniform tenor, ſhould ſometimes be ſo extravagantly diverted, I leave to abler philoſophers than myſelf to determine.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, July 8, 1773.

SOME young men went down lately to a pond on the verge of *Wolmer-foreſt* to hunt flappers, or young wild-ducks, many of which they caught, and, among the reſt, ſome very minute yet well-fledged wild-fowls alive, which upon examination I found to be teals. I did not know till then that teals ever bred in the ſouth of *England*, and was much pleaſed with the diſcovery: this I look upon as a great ſtroke in natural hiſtory.

We have had, ever ſince I can remember, a pair of white owls that conſtantly breed under the eaves of this church. As I have paid good attention to the manner of life of theſe birds during their ſeaſon of breeding, which laſts the ſummer through, the following remarks may not perhaps be unacceptable:—About an hour before ſunſet (for then the mice begin to run) they ſally forth in queſt of prey, and hunt all round the hedges of meadows and ſmall encloſures for them, which ſeem to be their only food. In this irregular country we can ſtand on an eminence and ſee them beat the fields over like a ſetting-dog, and often drop down in the graſs or corn. I have minuted theſe birds with my watch for an hour together, and have found that they return to their neſt, the one or the other of them, about once in five minutes; reflecting at the ſame time on the adroitneſs that every animal is poſſeſſed of as far as regards the well being of itſelf and off-

ſpring. But a piece of addreſs, which they ſhew when they return loaded, ſhould not, I think, be paſſed over in ſilence.—As they take their prey with their claws, ſo they carry it in their claws to their neſt: but, as the feet are neceſſary in their aſcent under the tiles, they conſtantly perch firſt on the roof of the chancel, and ſhift the mouſe from their claws to their bill, that the feet may be at liberty to take hold of the plate on the wall as they are riſing under the eaves.

White owls ſeem not (but in this I am not poſitive) to hoot at all: all that clamorous hooting appears to me to come from the wood kinds. The white owl does indeed ſnore and hiſs in a tremendous manner; and theſe menaces well anſwer the intention of intimidating: for I have known a whole village up in arms on ſuch an occaſion, imagining the church-yard to be full of goblins and ſpectres. White owls alſo often ſcream horribly as they fly along; from this ſcreaming probably aroſe the common people's imaginary ſpecies of *ſcreech-owl*, which they ſuperſtitiouſly think attends the windows of dying perſons. The plumage of the remiges of the wings of every ſpecies of owl that I have yet examined is remarkably ſoft and pliant. Perhaps it may be neceſſary that the wings of theſe birds ſhould not make much reſiſtance or ruſhing, that they may be enabled to ſteal through the air unheard upon a nimble and watchful quarry.

While I am talking of owls, it may not be improper to mention what I was told by a gentleman of the county of *Wilts*. As they were grubbing a vaſt hollow pollard-aſh that had been the manſion of owls for centuries, he diſcovered at the bottom a maſs of matter that at firſt he could not account for. After ſome examination, he found that it was a congeries of the bones of mice (and perhaps of birds and bats) that had been heaping together

for

for ages, being caſt up in pellets out of the crops of many generations of inhabitants. For owls caſt up the bones, fur, and feathers, of what they devour, after the manner of hawks. He believes, he told me, that there were buſhels of this kind of ſubſtance.

When brown owls hoot their throats ſwell as big as an hen's egg. I have known an owl of this ſpecies live a full year without any water. Perhaps the caſe may be the ſame with all birds of prey. When owls fly they ſtretch out their legs behind them as a balance to their large heavy heads. for as moſt nocturnal birds have large eyes and ears they muſt have large heads to contain them. Large eyes I preſume are neceſſary to collect every ray of light, and large concave ears to command the ſmalleſt degree of ſound or noiſe. I am, &c.

It will be proper to premiſe here that the ſixteenth, eighteenth, twentieth, and twenty-firſt letters have been publiſhed already in the Philoſophical Tranſactions: but as nicer obſervation has furniſhed ſeveral corrections and additions, it is hoped that the republication of them will not give offence; eſpecially as theſe ſheets would be very imperfect without them, and as they will be new to many readers who had no opportunity of ſeeing them when they made their firſt appearance.

The *hirundines* are a moſt inoffenſive, harmleſs, entertaining, ſocial, and uſeful tribe of birds: they touch no fruit in our gardens; delight, all except one ſpecies, in attaching themſelves to our houſes; amuſe us with their migrations, ſongs, and marvellous agility; and clear our outlets from the annoyances of gnats and other troubleſome inſects. Some diſtricts in the ſouth ſeas, near

Guiaquil[c], are deſolated, it ſeems, by the infinite ſwarms of venomous moſquitoes, which fill the air, and render thoſe coaſts inſupportable. It would be worth inquiring whether any ſpecies of *hirundines* is found in thoſe regions. Whoever contemplates the myriads of inſects that ſport in the ſun-beams of a ſummer evening in this country, will ſoon be convinced to what a degree our atmoſphere would be choaked with them was it not for the friendly interpoſition of the ſwallow tribe.

Many ſpecies of birds have their peculiar *lice*; but the *hirundines* alone ſeem to be annoyed with *dipterous* inſects, which infeſt every ſpecies, and are ſo large, in proportion to themſelves, that they muſt be extremely irkſome and injurious to them. Theſe are the *hippoboſcæ hirundinis*, with narrow ſubulated wings, abounding in every neſt; and are hatched by the warmth of the bird's own body during incubation, and crawl about under it's feathers.

A *ſpecies* of them is familiar to horſemen in the ſouth of *England* under the name of *foreſt-fly*; and to ſome of *ſide-fly*, from it's runing ſideways like a crab. It creeps under the tails, and about the groins, of horſes, which, at their firſt coming out of the north, are rendered half frantic by the tickling ſenſation; while our own breed little regards them.

The curious *Reaumur* diſcovered the large eggs, or rather *pupæ*, of theſe flies as big as the flies themſelves, which he hatched in his own boſom. Any perſon that will take the trouble to examine the old neſts of either ſpecies of ſwallows may find in them the black ſhining caſes or ſkins of the *pupæ* of theſe inſects: but for other particulars, too long for this place, we refer the reader to *l' Hiſtoire d' Inſectes* of that admirable entomologiſt. Tom. iv, pl. 11.

[c] See *Ulloa*'s Travels.

LETTER

LETTER XVI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Nov. 20. 1773.

In obedience to your injunctions I ſit down to give you ſome account of the houſe-martin, or martlet; and, if my monography of this little domeſtic and familiar bird ſhould happen to meet with your approbation, I may probably ſoon extend my inquiries to the reſt of the *Britiſh hirundines*—the ſwallow, the ſwift, and the bank-martin.

A few houſe-martins begin to appear about the ſixteenth of *April*; uſually ſome few days later than the ſwallow. For ſome time after they appear the hirundines in general pay no attention to the buſineſs of nidification, but play and ſport about, either to recruit from the fatigue of their journey, if they do migrate at all, or elſe that their blood may recover it's true tone and texture after it has been ſo long benumbed by the ſeverities of winter. About the middle of *May*, if the weather be fine, the martin begins to think in earneſt of providing a manſion for it's family. The cruſt or ſhell of this neſt ſeems to be formed of ſuch dirt or loam as comes moſt readily to hand, and is tempered and wrought together with little bits of broken ſtraws to render it tough and tenacious. As this bird often builds againſt a perpendicular wall without any projecting ledge under, it requires it's utmoſt efforts to get the firſt foundation firmly fixed, ſo that it may ſafely carry the ſuperſtructure. On this occaſion the bird not only clings with it's claws, but

but partly ſupports itſelf by ſtrongly inclining it's tail againſt the wall, making that a fulcrum; and thus ſteadied it works and plaſters the materials into the face of the brick or ſtone. But then, that this work may not, while it is ſoft and green, pull itſelf down by it's own weight, the provident architect has prudence and forbearance enough not to advance her work too faſt; but by building only in the morning, and by dedicating the reſt of the day to food and amuſement, gives it ſufficient time to dry and harden. About half an inch ſeems to be a ſufficient layer for a day. Thus careful workmen when they build mud-walls (informed at firſt perhaps by this little bird) raiſe but a moderate layer at a time, and then deſiſt; leſt the work ſhould become top-heavy, and ſo be ruined by it's own weight. By this method in about ten or twelve days is formed an hemiſpheric neſt with a ſmall aperture towards the top, ſtrong, compact, and warm; and perfectly fitted for all the purpoſes for which it was intended. But then nothing is more common than for the houſe-ſparrow, as ſoon as the ſhell is finiſhed, to ſeize on it as it's own, to eject the owner, and to line it after it's own manner.

After ſo much labour is beſtowed in erecting a manſion, as Nature ſeldom works in vain, martins will breed on for ſeveral years together in the ſame neſt, where it happens to be well ſheltered and ſecure from the injuries of weather. The ſhell or cruſt of the neſt is a ſort of ruſtic-work full of knobs and protuberances on the outſide: nor is the inſide of thoſe that I have examined ſmoothed with any exactneſs at all; but is rendered ſoft and warm, and fit for incubation, by a lining of ſmall ſtraws, graſſes, and feathers; and ſometimes by a bed of moſs interwoven with wool. In this neſt they tread, or engender, frequently during the time of building; and the hen lays from three to five white eggs.

At

At firſt when the young are hatched, and are in a naked and helpleſs condition, the parent birds, with tender aſſiduity, carry out what comes away from their young. Was it not for this affectionate cleanlineſs the neſtlings would ſoon be burnt up, and deſtroyed in ſo deep and hollow a neſt, by their own cauſtic excrement. In the quadruped creation the ſame neat precaution is made uſe of; particularly among dogs and cats, where the dams lick away what proceeds from their young. But in birds there ſeems to be a particular proviſion, that the dung of neſtlings is enveloped in a tough kind of jelly, and therefore is the eaſier conveyed off without ſoiling or daubing. Yet, as nature is cleanly in all her ways, the young perform this office for themſelves in a little time by thruſting their tails out at the aperture of their neſt. As the young of ſmall birds preſently arrive at their ἡλικία, or full growth, they ſoon become impatient of confinement, and ſit all day with their heads out at the orifice, where the dams, by clinging to the neſt, ſupply them with food from morning to night. For a time the young are fed on the wing by their parents; but the feat is done by ſo quick and almoſt imperceptible a flight, that a perſon muſt have attended very exactly to their motions before he would be able to perceive it. As ſoon as the young are able to ſhift for themſelves, the dams immediately turn their thoughts to the buſineſs of a ſecond brood: while the firſt flight, ſhaken off and rejected by their nurſes, congregate in great flocks, and are the birds that are ſeen cluſtering and hovering on ſunny mornings and evenings round towers and ſteeples, and on the roofs of churches and houſes. Theſe congregatings uſually begin to take place about the firſt week in *Auguſt*; and therefore we may conclude that by that time the firſt flight is pretty well over. The young of this ſpecies do not quit their abodes all together; but the more forward birds get abroad ſome days before

before the reſt. Theſe approaching the eaves of buildings, and playing about before them, make people think that ſeveral old ones attend one neſt. They are often capricious in fixing on a neſting-place, beginning many edifices, and leaving them unfiniſhed; but when once a neſt is completed in a ſheltered place, it ſerves for ſeveral ſeaſons. Thoſe which breed in a ready finiſhed houſe get the ſtart in hatching of thoſe that build new by ten days or a fortnight. Theſe induſtrious artificers are at their labours in the long days before four in the morning: when they fix their materials they plaſter them on with their chins, moving their heads with a quick vibratory motion. They dip and waſh as they fly ſometimes in very hot weather, but not ſo frequently as ſwallows. It has been obſerved that martins uſually build to a north-eaſt or north-weſt aſpect, that the heat of the ſun may not crack and deſtroy their neſts: but inſtances are alſo remembered where they bred for many years in vaſt abundance in an hot ſtifled inn-yard, againſt a wall facing to the ſouth.

Birds in general are wiſe in their choice of ſituation: but in this neighbourhood every ſummer is ſeen a ſtrong proof to the contrary at an houſe without eaves in an expoſed diſtrict, where ſome martins build year by year in the corners of the windows. But, as the corners of theſe windows (which face to the ſouth-eaſt and ſouth-weſt) are too ſhallow, the neſts are waſhed down every hard rain; and yet theſe birds drudge on to no purpoſe from ſummer to ſummer, without changing their aſpect or houſe. It is a piteous ſight to ſee them labouring when half their neſt is waſhed away and bringing dirt - - - "*generis lapſi farcire ruinas*". Thus is inſtinct a moſt wonderful unequal faculty; in ſome inſtances ſo much above reaſon, in other reſpects ſo far below it! Martins love to frequent towns, eſpecially if there are great lakes and rivers at hand; nay they

they even affect the close air of *London*. And I have not only seen them nesting in the *Borough*, but even in the *Strand* and *Fleet-street*; but then it was obvious from the dinginess of their aspect that their feathers partook of the filth of that sooty atmosphere. Martins are by far the least agile of the four species; their wings and tails are short, and therefore they are not capable of such surprising turns and quick and glancing evolutions as the swallow. Accordingly they make use of a placid easy motion in a middle region of the air, seldom mounting to any great height, and never sweeping long together over the surface of the ground or water. They do not wander far for food, but affect sheltered districts, over some lake, or under some hanging wood, or in some hollow vale, especially in windy weather. They breed the latest of all the swallow kind: in 1772 they had nestlings on to *October* the twenty-first, and are never without unfledged young as late as *Michaelmas*.

As the summer declines the congregating flocks increase in numbers daily by the constant accession of the second broods; till at last they swarm in myriads upon myriads round the villages on the *Thames*, darkening the face of the sky as they frequent the aits of that river, where they roost. They retire, the bulk of them I mean, in vast flocks together about the beginning of *October*: but have appeared of late years in a considerable flight in this neighbourhood, for one day or two, as late as *November* the third and sixth, after they were supposed to have been gone for more than a fortnight. They therefore withdraw with us the latest of any species. Unless these birds are very short-lived indeed, or unless they do not return to the district where they are bred, they must undergo vast devastations some how, and some where; for the birds that return yearly bear no manner of proportion to the birds that retire.

Houſe-martins are diſtinguiſhed from their congeners by having their legs covered with ſoft downy feathers down to their toes. They are no ſongſters; but twitter in a pretty inward ſoft manner in their neſts. During the time of breeding they are often greatly moleſted with fleas.

I am, &c.

LETTER XVII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, RINGMER, near LEWES, Dec. 9, 1773.

I RECEIVED your laſt favour juſt as I was ſetting out for this place; and am pleaſed to find that my monography met with your approbation. My remarks are the reſult of many years obſervation; and are, I truſt, true in the whole: though I do not pretend to ſay that they are perfectly void of miſtake, or that a more nice obſerver might not make many additions, ſince ſubjects of this kind are inexhauſtible.

If you think my letter worthy the notice of your reſpectable ſociety, you are at liberty to lay it before them; and they will conſider it, I hope, as it was intended, as an humble attempt to promote a more minute inquiry into natural hiſtory; into the life and converſation of animals. Perhaps hereafter I may be induced to take the houſe-ſwallow under conſideration; and from that proceed to the reſt of the *Britiſh hirundines*.

Though

Though I have now travelled the *Suſſex-downs* upwards of thirty years, yet I ſtill inveſtigate that chain of majeſtic mountains with freſh admiration year by year; and think I ſee new beauties every time I traverſe it. This range, which runs from *Chicheſter* eaſtward as far as *Eaſt-Bourn*, is about ſixty miles in length, and is called *The South Downs*, properly ſpeaking, only round *Lewes*. As you paſs along you command a noble view of the wild, or weald, on one hand, and the broad downs and ſea on the other. Mr. *Ray* uſed to viſit a family[d] juſt at the foot of theſe hills, and was ſo raviſhed with the proſpect from *Plumpton-plain*, near *Lewes*, that he mentions thoſe ſcapes in his "Wiſdom of God in the "Works of the Creation" with the utmoſt ſatisfaction, and thinks them equal to any thing he had ſeen in the fineſt parts of *Europe*.

For my own part, I think there is ſomewhat peculiarly ſweet and amuſing in the ſhapely figured aſpect of chalk-hills in preference to thoſe of ſtone, which are rugged, broken, abrupt, and ſhapeleſs.

Perhaps I may be ſingular in my opinion, and not ſo happy as to convey to you the ſame idea; but I never contemplate theſe mountains without thinking I perceive ſomewhat analogous to growth in their gentle ſwellings and ſmooth fungus-like protuberances, their fluted ſides, and regular hollows and ſlopes, that carry at once the air of vegetative dilation and expanſion - - - - - -

- - - Or was there ever a time when theſe immenſe maſſes of calcarious matter were thrown into fermentation by ſome adventitious moiſture; were raiſed and leavened into ſuch ſhapes by ſome plaſtic power; and ſo made to ſwell and heave their broad backs into the ſky ſo much above the leſs animated clay of the wild below?

[d] Mr. *Courthope* of *Danny*.

By what I can gueſs from the admeaſurements of the hills that have been taken round my houſe, I ſhould ſuppoſe that theſe hills ſurmount the wild at an average at about the rate of five hundred feet.

One thing is very remarkable as to the ſheep: from the weſtward till you get to the river *Adur* all the flocks have horns, and ſmooth white faces, and white legs; and a hornleſs ſheep is rarely to be ſeen: but as ſoon as you paſs that river eaſtward, and mount *Beeding-hill*, all the flocks at once become hornleſs, or, as they call them, poll-ſheep; and have moreover black faces with a white tuft of wool on their foreheads, and ſpeckled and ſpotted legs: ſo that you would think that the flocks of *Laban* were paſturing on one ſide of the ſtream, and the variegated breed of his ſon-in-law *Jacob* were cantoned along on the other. And this diverſity holds good reſpectively on each ſide from the valley of *Bramber* and *Beeding* to the eaſtward, and weſtward all the whole length of the downs. If you talk with the ſhepherds on this ſubject, they tell you that the caſe has been ſo from time immemorial; and ſmile at your ſimplicity if you aſk them whether the ſituation of theſe two different breeds might not be reverſed? However, an intelligent friend of mine near *Chichester* is determined to try the experiment; and has this autumn, at the hazard of being laughed at, introduced a parcel of black-faced hornleſs rams among his horned weſtern ewes. The black-faced poll-ſheep have the ſhorteſt legs and the fineſt wool.

As I had hardly ever before travelled theſe downs at ſo late a ſeaſon of the year, I was determined to keep as ſharp a look-out as poſſible ſo near the ſouthern coaſt, with reſpect to the ſummer ſhort-winged birds of paſſage. We make great inquiries concerning the withdrawing of the ſwallow kind, without examining enough into the

the cauſes why *this tribe* is never to be ſeen in winter: for, *entre nous*, the diſappearing of the latter is more marvellous than that of the former, and much more unaccountable. The *hirundines*, if they pleaſe, are certainly capable of migration; and yet no doubt are often found in a torpid ſtate: but redſtarts, nightingales, white-throats, black-caps, &c. &c. are very ill provided for long flights; have never been once found, as I ever heard of, in a torpid ſtate, and yet can never be ſuppoſed, in ſuch troops, from year to year to dodge and elude the eyes of the curious and inquiſitive, which from day to day diſcern the other ſmall birds that are known to abide our winters. But, notwithſtanding all my care, I ſaw nothing like a ſummer bird of paſſage: and, what is more ſtrange, not one wheat-ear, though they abound ſo in the autumn as to be a conſiderable perquiſite to the ſhepherds that take them; and though many are to be ſeen to my knowledge all the winter through in many parts of the ſouth of *England*. The moſt intelligent ſhepherds tell me that ſome few of theſe birds appear on the downs in *March*, and then withdraw to breed probably in warrens and ſtone-quarries: now and then a neſt is plowed up in a fallow on the downs under a furrow, but it is thought a rarity. At the time of wheat-harveſt they begin to be taken in great numbers; are ſent for ſale in vaſt quantities to *Brighthelmſtone* and *Tunbridge*; and appear at the tables of all the gentry that entertain with any degree of elegance. About *Michaelmas* they retire and are ſeen no more till *March*. Though theſe birds are, when in ſeaſon, in great plenty on the ſouth downs round *Lewes*, yet at *Eaſt-Bourn*, which is the eaſtern extremity of thoſe downs, they abound much more. One thing is very remarkable—that though in the height of the ſeaſon ſo many hundreds of dozens are taken, yet they never are ſeen to flock; and it is a rare thing to ſee more than three or four at a time: ſo that there

muſt

muſt be a perpetual flitting and conſtant progreſſive ſucceſſion. It does not appear that any wheat-ears are taken to the weſtward of *Houghton-bridge*, which ſtands on the river *Arun*.

I did not fail to look particularly after my new migration of *ring-ouſels*; and to take notice whether they continued on the downs to this ſeaſon of the year; as I had formerly remarked them in the month of *October* all the way from *Chicheſter* to *Lewes* whereever there were any ſhrubs and covert: but not one bird of this ſort came within my obſervation. I only ſaw a few *larks* and *whinchats*, ſome *rooks*, and ſeveral *kites* and *buzzards*.

About *Midſummer* a flight of *croſs-bills* comes to the pine-groves about this houſe, but never makes any long ſtay.

The old tortoiſe, that I have mentioned in a former letter, ſtill continues in this garden; and retired under ground about the twentieth of *November*, and came out again for one day on the thirtieth: it lies now buried in a wet ſwampy border under a wall facing to the ſouth, and is enveloped at preſent in mud and mire!

Here is a large rookery round this houſe, the inhabitants of which ſeem to get their livelihood very eaſily; for they ſpend the greateſt part of the day on their neſt-trees when the weather is mild. Theſe rooks retire every evening all the winter from this rookery, where they only call by the way, as they are going to rooſt in deep woods: at the dawn of day they always reviſit their neſt-trees, and are preceded a few minutes by a flight of daws, that act, as it were, as their harbingers.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XVIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Jan. 29, 1774.

THE houſe-ſwallow, or chimney-ſwallow, is undoubtedly the firſt comer of all the *Britiſh hirundines*; and appears in general on or about the thirteenth of *April*, as I have remarked from many years obſervation. Not but now and then a ſtraggler is ſeen much earlier: and, in particular, when I was a boy I obſerved a ſwallow for a whole day together on a ſunny warm *Shrove Tueſday*; which day could not fall out later than the middle of *March*, and often happened early in *February*.

It is worth remarking that theſe birds are ſeen firſt about lakes and mill-ponds; and it is alſo very particular, that if theſe early viſiters happen to find froſt and ſnow, as was the caſe of the two dreadful ſprings of 1770 and 1771, they immediately withdraw for a time. A circumſtance this much more in favour of hiding than migration; ſince it is much more probable that a bird ſhould retire to it's hybernaculum juſt at hand, than return for a week or two only to warmer latitudes.

The ſwallow, though called the chimney-ſwallow, by no means builds altogether in chimnies, but often within barns and out-houſes againſt the rafters; and ſo ſhe did in *Virgil*'s time:

— — — — "Antè
"Garrula quàm tignis nidos ſuſpendat hirundo."

In

In *Sweden* ſhe builds in barns, and is called *ladu ſwala*, the barn-ſwallow. Beſides, in the warmer parts of *Europe* there are no chimnies to houſes, except they are *Engliſh-built:* in theſe countries ſhe conſtructs her neſt in porches, and gate-ways, and galleries, and open halls.

Here and there a bird may affect ſome odd, peculiar place; as we have known a ſwallow build down the ſhaft of an old well, through which chalk had been formerly drawn up for the purpoſe of manure: but in general with us this *hirundo* breeds in chimnies; and loves to haunt thoſe ſtacks where there is a conſtant fire, no doubt for the ſake of warmth. Not that it can ſubſiſt in the immediate ſhaft where there is a fire; but prefers one adjoining to that of the kitchen, and diſregards the perpetual ſmoke of that funnel, as I have often obſerved with ſome degree of wonder.

Five or ſix or more feet down the chimney does this little bird begin to form her neſt about the middle of *May*, which conſiſts, like that of the houſe-martin, of a cruſt or ſhell compoſed of dirt or mud, mixed with ſhort pieces of ſtraw to render it tough and permanent; with this difference, that whereas the ſhell of the martin is nearly hemiſpheric, that of the ſwallow is open at the top, and like half a deep diſh: this neſt is lined with fine graſſes, and feathers which are often collected as they float in the air.

Wonderful is the addreſs which this adroit bird ſhews all day long in aſcending and deſcending with ſecurity through ſo narrow a paſs. When hovering over the mouth of the funnel, the vibrations of her wings acting on the confined air occaſion a rumbling like thunder. It is not improbable that the dam ſubmits to this inconvenient ſituation ſo low in the ſhaft, in order to ſecure her broods from rapacious birds, and particularly from owls, which frequently

frequently fall down chimnies, perhaps in attempting to get at theſe neſtlings.

The ſwallow lays from four to ſix white eggs, dotted with red ſpecks; and brings out her firſt brood about the laſt week in *June*, or the firſt week in *July*. The progreſſive method by which the young are introduced into life is very amuſing: firſt, they emerge from the ſhaft with difficulty enough, and often fall down into the rooms below: for a day or ſo they are fed on the chimney-top, and then are conducted to the dead leafleſs bough of ſome tree, where, ſitting in a row, they are attended with great aſſiduity, and may then be called *perchers*. In a day or two more they become *flyers*, but are ſtill unable to take their own food; therefore they play about near the place where the dams are hawking for flies; and, when a mouthful is collected, at a certain ſignal given, the dam and the neſtling advance, riſing towards each other, and meeting at an angle; the young one all the while uttering ſuch a little quick note of gratitude and complacency, that a perſon muſt have paid very little regard to the wonders of Nature that has not often remarked this feat.

The dam betakes herſelf immediately to the buſineſs of a ſecond brood as ſoon as ſhe is diſengaged from her firſt; which at once aſſociates with the firſt broods of *houſe-martins*; and with them congregates, cluſtering on ſunny roofs, towers, and trees. This hirundo brings out her ſecond brood towards the middle and end of *Auguſt*.

All the ſummer long is the ſwallow a moſt inſtructive pattern of unwearied induſtry and affection; for, from morning to night, while there is a family to be ſupported, ſhe ſpends the whole day in ſkimming cloſe to the ground, and exerting the moſt ſudden turns and quick evolutions. Avenues, and long walks under

hedges, and paſture-fields, and mown meadows where cattle graze, are her delight, eſpecially if there are trees interſperſed; becauſe in ſuch ſpots inſects moſt abound. When a fly is taken a ſmart ſnap from her bill is heard, reſembling the noiſe at the ſhutting of a watch-caſe; but the motion of the mandibles are too quick for the eye.

The ſwallow, probably the male bird, is the *excubitor* to houſe-martins, and other little birds, announcing the approach of birds of prey. For as ſoon as an hawk appears, with a ſhrill alarming note he calls all the ſwallows and martins about him; who purſue in a body, and buffet and ſtrike their enemy till they have driven him from the village, darting down from above on his back, and riſing in a perpendicular line in perfect ſecurity. This bird alſo will ſound the alarm, and ſtrike at cats when they climb on the roofs of houſes, or otherwiſe approach the neſts. Each ſpecies of hirundo drinks as it flies along, ſipping the ſurface of the water; but the ſwallow alone, in general, *waſhes* on the wing, by dropping into a pool for many times together: in very hot weather houſe-martins and bank-martins dip and waſh a little.

The ſwallow is a delicate ſongſter, and in ſoft ſunny weather ſings both perching and flying; on trees in a kind of concert, and on chimney tops: is alſo a bold flyer, ranging to diſtant downs and commons even in windy weather, which the other ſpecies ſeem much to diſlike; nay, even frequenting expoſed ſea-port towns, and making little excurſions over the ſalt water. Horſemen on wide downs are often cloſely attended by a little party of ſwallows for miles together, which plays before and behind them, ſweeping around, and collecting all the ſculking inſects that are rouſed by the trampling of the horſes feet: when the wind blows hard, without this expedient, they are often forced to ſettle to pick up their lurking prey. This

This ſpecies feeds much on little *coleoptera*, as well as on gnats and flies; and often ſettles on dug ground, or paths, for gravels to grind and digeſt it's food. Before they depart, for ſome weeks, to a bird, they forſake houſes and chimnies, and rooſt in trees; and uſually withdraw about the beginning of *October*; though ſome few ſtragglers may appear on at times till the firſt week in *November*.

Some few pairs haunt the new and open ſtreets of *London* next the fields, but do not enter, like the houſe-martin, the cloſe and crowded parts of the city.

Both male and female are diſtinguiſhed from their congeners by the length and forkedneſs of their tails. They are undoubtedly the moſt nimble of all the ſpecies: and when the male purſues the female in amorous chaſe, they then go beyond their uſual ſpeed, and exert a rapidity almoſt too quick for the eye to follow.

After this circumſtantial detail of the life and diſcerning στοργη of the ſwallow, I ſhall add, for your farther amuſement, an anecdote or two not much in favour of her ſagacity:—

A certain ſwallow built for two years together on the handles of a pair of garden-ſhears, that were ſtuck up againſt the boards in an out-houſe, and therefore muſt have her neſt ſpoiled whenever that implement was wanted: and, what is ſtranger ſtill, another bird of the ſame ſpecies built it's neſt on the wings and body of an owl that happened by accident to hang dead and dry from the rafter of a barn. This owl, with the neſt on it's wings, and with eggs in the neſt, was brought as a curioſity worthy the moſt elegant private muſeum in *Great-Britain*. The owner, ſtruck with the oddity of the ſight, furniſhed the bringer with a large ſhell, or conch, deſiring him to fix it juſt where the owl hung: the perſon did as he was ordered, and the following year a pair, pro-

bably the ſame pair, built their neſt in the conch, and laid their eggs.

The owl and the conch make a ſtrange groteſque appearance, and are not the leaſt curious ſpecimens in that wonderful collection of art and nature[f].

Thus is inſtinct in animals, taken the leaſt out of it's way, an undiſtinguiſhing, limited faculty; and blind to every circumſtance that does not immediately reſpect ſelf-preſervation, or lead at once to the propagation or ſupport of their ſpecies.

I am,

With all reſpect, &c. &c.

LETTER XIX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Feb. 14, 1774.

I RECEIVED your favour of the eighth, and am pleaſed to find that you read my little hiſtory of the ſwallow wtih your uſual candour: nor was I the leſs pleaſed to find that you made objections where you ſaw reaſon.

[f] Sir *Aſhton Lever*'s Muſæum.

As

As to the quotations, it is difficult to ſay preciſely which ſpecies of hirundo *Virgil* might intend in the lines in queſtion, ſince the ancients did not attend to ſpecific differences like modern naturaliſts: yet ſomewhat may be gathered, enough to incline me to ſuppoſe that in the two paſſages quoted the poet had his eye on the ſwallow.

In the firſt place the epithet *garrula* ſuits the *ſwallow* well, who is a great ſongſter; and not the *martin*, which is rather a mute bird; and when it ſings is ſo inward as ſcarce to be heard. Beſides, if *tignum* in that place ſignifies a *rafter* rather than a *beam*, as it ſeems to me to do, then I think it muſt be the *ſwallow* that is alluded to, and not the *martin*; ſince the former does frequently build *within the roof* againſt the *rafters*; while the latter always, as far as I have been able to obſerve, builds *without the roof* againſt eaves and cornices.

As to the *ſimile*, too much ſtreſs muſt not be laid on it: yet the epithet *nigra* ſpeaks plainly in favour of the ſwallow, whoſe back and wings are very black; while the rump of the martin is milk-white, it's back and wings blue, and all it's under part white as ſnow. Nor can the clumſy motions (comparatively clumſy) of the martin well repreſent the ſudden and artful evolutions and quick turns which *Juturna* gave to her brother's chariot, ſo as to elude the eager purſuit of the enraged *Æneas*. The verb *ſonat* alſo ſeems to imply a bird that is ſomewhat loquacious [g].

" [g] *Nigra* velut magnas domini cum divitis ædes
" Pervolat, et pennis alta atria luſtrat hirundo,
" Pabula parva legens, nidiſque loquacibus eſcas:
" Et nunc porticibus vacuis, nunc humida circum
" Stagna *ſonat*" — — — —

We

We have had a very wet autumn and winter, ſo as to raiſe the ſprings to a pitch beyond any thing ſince 1764; which was a remarkable year for floods and high waters. The land-ſprings, which we call *lavants*, break out much on the downs of *Suſſex*, *Hampſhire*, and *Wiltſhire*. The country people ſay when the *lavants* riſe corn will always be dear; meaning that when the earth is ſo glutted with water as to ſend forth ſprings on the downs and uplands, that the corn-vales muſt be drowned: and ſo it has proved for theſe ten or eleven years paſt. For land-ſprings have never obtained more ſince the memory of man than during that period; nor has there been known a greater ſcarcity of all ſorts of grain, conſidering the great improvements of modern huſbandry. Such a run of wet ſeaſons a century or two ago would, I am perſuaded, have occaſioned a famine. Therefore pamphlets and newſpaper letters, that talk of combinations, tend to inflame and miſlead; ſince we muſt not expect plenty till Providence ſends us more favourable ſeaſons.

The wheat of laſt year, all round this diſtrict, and in the county of *Rutland*, and elſewhere, yields remarkably bad: and our wheat on the ground, by the continual late ſudden viciſſitudes from fierce froſt to pouring rains, looks poorly; and the turnips rot very faſt.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Feb. 26, 1774.

THE ſand-martin, or bank-martin, is by much the leaſt of any of the *Britiſh hirundines*; and, as far as we have ever ſeen, the ſmalleſt known hirundo: though *Briſſon* aſſerts that there is one much ſmaller, and that is the *hirundo eſculenta*.

But it is much to be regretted that it is ſcarce poſſible for any obſerver to be ſo full and exact as he could wiſh in reciting the circumſtances attending the life and converſation of this little bird, ſince it is *fera naturâ*, at leaſt in this part of the kingdom, diſclaiming all domeſtic attachments, and haunting wild heaths and commons where there are large lakes: while the other ſpecies, eſpecially the ſwallow and houſe-martin, are remarkably gentle and domeſticated, and never ſeem to think themſelves ſafe but under the protection of man.

Here are in this pariſh, in the ſand-pits and banks of the lakes of *Woolmer-foreſt*, ſeveral colonies of theſe birds; and yet they are never ſeen in the village; nor do they at all frequent the cottages that are ſcattered about in that wild diſtrict. The only inſtance I ever remember where this ſpecies haunts any building is at the town of *Biſhop's Waltham*, in this county, where many ſand-martins neſtle and breed in the ſcaffold-holes of the back-wall of *William* of *Wykeham*'s ſtables: but then this wall ſtands in a very ſequeſtered and retired

retired enclosure, and faces upon a large and beautiful lake. And indeed this species seems so to delight in large waters, that no instance occurs of their abounding, but near vast pools or rivers: and in particular it has been remarked that they swarm in the banks of the *Thames* in some places below *London-bridge*.

It is curious to observe with what different degrees of architectonic skill Providence has endowed birds of the same genus, and so nearly correspondent in their general mode of life! for while the swallow and the house-martin discover the greatest address in raising and securely fixing crusts or shells of loam as cunabula for their young, the bank-martin terebrates a round and regular hole in the sand or earth, which is serpentine, horizontal, and about two feet deep. At the inner end of this burrow does this bird deposit, in a good degree of safety, her rude nest, consisting of fine grasses and feathers, usually goose-feathers, very inartificially laid together.

Perseverance will accomplish any thing: though at first one would be disinclined to believe that this weak bird, with her soft and tender bill and claws, should ever be able to bore the stubborn sand-bank without entirely disabling herself: yet with these feeble instruments have I seen a pair of them make great dispatch: and could remark how much they had scooped that day by the fresh sand which ran down the bank, and was of a different colour from that which lay loose and bleached in the sun.

In what space of time these little artists are able to mine and finish these cavities I have never been able to discover, for reasons given above; but it would be a matter worthy of observation, where it falls in the way of any naturalist to make his remarks. This I have often taken notice of, that several holes of different depths are left unfinished at the end of summer. To imagine that

these

theſe beginnings were intentionally made in order to be in the greater forwardneſs for next ſpring, is allowing perhaps too much foreſight and *rerum prudentia* to a ſimple bird. May not the cauſe of theſe *latebræ* being left unfiniſhed ariſe from their meeting in thoſe places with ſtrata too harſh, hard, and ſolid, for their purpoſe, which they relinquiſh, and go to a freſh ſpot that works more freely? Or may they not in other places fall in with a ſoil as much too looſe and mouldering, liable to flounder, and threatening to overwhelm them and their labours?

One thing is remarkable—that, after ſome years, the old holes are forſaken and new ones bored; perhaps becauſe the old habitations grow foul and fetid from long uſe, or becauſe they may ſo abound with fleas as to become untenantable. This ſpecies of ſwallow moreover is ſtrangely annoyed with fleas: and we have ſeen fleas, bed-fleas (*pulex irritans*), ſwarming at the mouths of theſe holes, like bees on the ſtools of their hives.

The following circumſtance ſhould by no means be omitted—that theſe birds do *not* make uſe of their caverns by way of hybernacula, as might be expected; ſince banks ſo perforated have been dug out with care in the winter, when nothing was found but empty neſts.

The ſand-martin arrives much about the ſame time with the ſwallow, and lays, as ſhe does, from four to ſix white eggs. But as this ſpecies is *cryptogame*, carrying on the buſineſs of nidification, incubation, and the ſupport of it's young in the dark, it would not be ſo eaſy to aſcertain the time of breeding, were it not for the coming forth of the broods, which appear much about the time, or rather ſomewhat earlier than thoſe of the ſwallow. The neſtlings are ſupported in common like thoſe of their congeners, with gnats and other ſmall inſects; and ſometimes they are fed with *libellulæ*

(dragon-flies) almoſt as long as themſelves. In the laſt week in *June* we have ſeen a row of theſe ſitting on a rail near a great pool as *perchers*; and ſo young and helpleſs, as eaſily to be taken by hand: but whether the dams ever feed them on the wing, as ſwallows and houſe-martins do, we have never yet been able to determine; nor do we know whether they purſue and attack birds of prey.

When they happen to breed near hedges and encloſures, they are diſpoſſeſſed of their breeding holes by the houſe-ſparrow, which is on the ſame account a fell adverſary to houſe-martins.

Theſe *hirundines* are no ſongſters, but rather mute, making only a little harſh noiſe when a perſon approaches their neſts. They ſeem not to be of a ſociable turn, never with us congregating with their congeners in the autumn. Undoubtedly they breed a ſecond time, like the houſe-martin and ſwallow; and withdraw about *Michaelmas*.

Though in ſome particular diſtricts they may happen to abound, yet in the whole, in the ſouth of *England* at leaſt, is this much the rareſt ſpecies. For there are few towns or large villages but what abound with houſe-martins; few churches, towers, or ſteeples, but what are haunted by ſome ſwifts; ſcarce a hamlet or ſingle cottage-chimney that has not it's ſwallow; while the bank-martins, ſcattered here and there, live a ſequeſtered life among ſome abrupt ſand-hills, and in the banks of ſome few rivers.

Theſe birds have a peculiar manner of flying; flitting about with odd jerks, and vacillations, not unlike the motions of a butterfly. Doubtleſs the flight of all *hirundines* is influenced by, and adapted to, the peculiar ſort of inſects which furniſh their food. Hence it would be worth inquiry to examine what particular genus of inſects affords the principal food of each reſpective ſpecies of ſwallow. Notwithſtanding

Notwithſtanding what has been advanced above, ſome few ſand-martins, I ſee, haunt the ſkirts of *London*, frequenting the dirty pools in *Saint George's-Fields*, and about *White-Chapel*. The queſtion is where theſe build, ſince there are no banks or bold ſhores in that neighbourhood: perhaps they neſtle in the ſcaffold holes of ſome old or new deſerted building. They dip and waſh as they fly ſometimes, like the houſe-martin and ſwallow.

Sand-martins differ from their congeners in the diminutiveneſs of their ſize, and in their colour, which is what is uſually called a mouſe-colour. Near *Valencia*, in *Spain*, they are taken, ſays *Willughby*, and ſold in the markets for the table; and are called by the country people, probably from their deſultory jerking manner of flight, *Papilion de Montagna*.

LETTER XXI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Sept. 28, 1774.

As the *ſwift* or *black-martin* is the largeſt of the *Britiſh hirundines*, ſo is it undoubtedly the lateſt comer. For I remember but one inſtance of it's appearing before the laſt week in *April:* and in ſome of our late froſty, harſh ſprings, it has not been ſeen till the beginning of *May*. This ſpecies uſually arrives in pairs.

The ſwift, like the ſand-martin, is very defective in architecture, making no cruſt, or ſhell, for it's neſt; but forming it of dry graſſes and feathers, very rudely and inartificially put together. With all my attention to theſe birds, I have never been able once to diſcover one in the act of collecting or carrying in materials: ſo that I have ſuſpected (ſince their neſts are exactly the ſame) that they ſometimes uſurp upon the houſe-ſparrows, and expel them, as ſparrows do the houſe and ſand-martin; well remembering that I have ſeen them ſquabbling together at the entrance of their holes; and the ſparrows up in arms, and much-diſconcerted at theſe intruders. And yet I am aſſured, by a nice obſerver in ſuch matters, that they do collect feathers for their neſts in *Andaluſia*; and that he has ſhot them with ſuch materials in their mouths.

Swifts, like ſand-martins, carry on the buſineſs of nidification quite in the dark, in crannies of caſtles, and towers, and ſteeples, and upon the tops of the walls of churches under the roof; and therefore cannot be ſo narrowly watched as thoſe ſpecies that build more openly: but, from what I could ever obſerve, they begin neſting about the middle of *May*; and I have remarked, from eggs taken, that they have ſat hard by the ninth of *June*. In general they haunt tall buildings, churches, and ſteeples, and breed only in ſuch: yet in this village ſome pairs frequent the loweſt and meaneſt cottages, and educate their young under thoſe thatched roofs. We remember but one inſtance where they breed out of buildings; and that is in the ſides of a deep chalkpit near the town of *Odiham*, in this county, where we have ſeen many pairs entering the crevices, and ſkimming and ſqueaking round the precipices.

As I have regarded theſe amuſive birds with no ſmall attention, if I ſhould advance ſomething new and peculiar with reſpect to them, and different from all other birds, I might perhaps be credited;

dited; eſpecially as my aſſertion is the reſult of many years exact obſervation. The fact that I would advance is, that ſwifts *tread*, or copulate, on the wing: and I would wiſh any nice obſerver, that is ſtartled at this ſuppoſition, to uſe his own eyes, and I think he will ſoon be convinced. In another *claſs* of animals, *viz.* the *inſect*, nothing is ſo common as to ſee the different ſpecies of many genera in conjunction as they fly. The ſwift is almoſt continually on the wing; and as it never ſettles on the ground, on trees, or roofs, would ſeldom find opportunity for amorous rites, was it not enabled to indulge them in the air. If any perſon would watch theſe birds of a fine morning in *May*, as they are ſailing round at a great height from the ground, he would ſee, every now and then, one drop on the back of another, and both of them ſink down together for many fathoms with a loud piercing ſhriek. This I take to be the juncture when the buſineſs of generation is carrying on.

As the ſwift eats, drinks, collects materials for it's neſt, and, as it ſeems, propagates on the wing; it appears to live more in the air than any other bird, and to perform all functions there ſave thoſe of ſleeping and incubation.

This *hirundo* differs widely from it's congeners in laying invariably but *two* eggs at a time, which are milk-white, long, and peaked at the ſmall end; whereas the other ſpecies lay at each brood from *four* to *ſix*. It is a moſt alert bird, riſing very early, and retiring to rooſt very late; and is on the wing in the height of ſummer at leaſt ſixteen hours. In the longeſt days it does not withdraw to reſt till a quarter before nine in the evening, being the lateſt of all day birds. Juſt before they retire whole groups of them aſſemble high in the air, and ſqueak, and ſhoot about with wonderful rapidity. But this bird is never ſo much alive as in ſultry thundry weather, when it expreſſes great alacrity, and calls forth

forth all it's powers. In hot mornings ſeveral, getting together in little parties, daſh round the ſteeples and churches, ſqueaking as they go in a very clamorous manner: theſe, by nice obſervers, are ſuppoſed to be males ſerenading their ſitting hens; and not without reaſon, ſince they ſeldom ſqueak till they come cloſe to the walls or eaves, and ſince thoſe within utter at the ſame time a little inward note of complacency.

When the hen has ſat hard all day, ſhe ruſhes forth juſt as it is almoſt dark, and ſtretches and relieves her weary limbs, and ſnatches a ſcanty meal for a few minutes, and then returns to her duty of incubation. Swifts, when wantonly and cruelly ſhot while they have young, diſcover a little lump of inſects in their mouths, which they pouch and hold under their tongue. In general they feed in a much higher diſtrict than the other ſpecies; a proof that gnats and other inſects do alſo abound to a conſiderable height in the air: they alſo range to vaſt diſtances; ſince loco-motion is no labour to them, who are endowed with ſuch wonderful powers of wing. Their powers ſeem to be in proportion to their leavers; and their wings are longer in proportion than thoſe of almoſt any other bird. When they mute, or caſe themſelves in flight, they raiſe their wings, and make them meet over their backs.

At ſome certain times in the ſummer I had remarked that ſwifts were hawking very low for hours together over pools and ſtreams; and could not help inquiring into the object of their purſuit that induced them to deſcend ſo much below their uſual range. After ſome trouble, I found that they were taking *phryganeæ*, *ephemeræ*, and *libellulæ* (cadew-flies, may-flies, and dragon-flies) that were juſt emerged out of their aurelia ſtate. I then no longer wondered that they ſhould be ſo willing to ſtoop for a prey that afforded them ſuch plentiful and ſucculent nouriſhment.

They

They bring out their young about the middle or latter end of *July:* but as theſe never become perchers, nor, that ever I could diſcern, are fed on the wing by their dams, the coming forth of the young is not ſo notorious as in the other ſpecies.

On the thirtieth of laſt *June* I untiled the eaves of an houſe where many pairs build, and found in each neſt only *two* ſquab, naked *pulli:* on the eighth of *July* I repeated the ſame inquiry, and found they had made very little progreſs towards a fledged ſtate, but were ſtill naked and helpleſs. From whence we may conclude that birds whoſe way of life keeps them perpetually on the wing would not be able to quit their neſt till the end of the month. Swallows and martins, that have numerous families, are continually feeding them every two or three minutes; while ſwifts, that have but two young to maintain, are much at their leiſure, and do not attend on their neſts for hours together.

Sometimes they purſue and ſtrike at hawks that come in their way; but not with that vehemence and fury that ſwallows expreſs on the ſame occaſion. They are out all day long in wet days, feeding about, and diſregarding ſtill rain: from whence two things may be gathered; firſt, that many inſects abide high in the air, even in rain; and next, that the feathers of theſe birds muſt be well preened to reſiſt ſo much wet. Windy, and particularly windy weather with heavy ſhowers, they diſlike; and on ſuch days withdraw, and are ſcarce ever ſeen.

There is a circumſtance reſpecting the *colour* of ſwifts, which ſeems not to be unworthy our attention. When they arrive in the ſpring they are all over of a gloſſy, dark ſoot-colour, except their chins, which are white; but, by being all day long in the ſun and air, they become quite weather-beaten and bleached before they depart, and yet they return gloſſy again in the ſpring. Now, if they

they purſue the ſun into lower latitudes, as ſome ſuppoſe, in order to enjoy a perpetual ſummer, why do they not return bleached? Do they not rather perhaps retire to reſt for a ſeaſon, and at that juncture moult and change their feathers, ſince all other birds are known to moult ſoon after the ſeaſon of breeding?

Swifts are very anomalous in many particulars, diſſenting from all their congeners not only in the number of their young, but in breeding but *once* in a ſummer; whereas all the other *Britiſh hirundines* breed invariably *twice*. It is paſt all doubt that ſwifts can breed but once, ſince they withdraw in a ſhort time after the flight of their young, and ſome time before their congeners bring out their ſecond broods. We may here remark, that, as ſwifts breed but *once* in a ſummer, and only *two* at a time, and the other *hirundines twice*, the latter, who lay from four to ſix eggs, increaſe at an average five times as faſt as the former.

But in nothing are ſwifts more ſingular than in their early retreat. They retire, as to the main body of them, by the tenth of *Auguſt*, and ſometimes a few days ſooner: and every ſtraggler invariably withdraws by the twentieth, while their congeners, all of them, ſtay till the beginning of *October*; many of them all through that month, and ſome occaſionally to the beginning of *November*. This early retreat is myſterious and wonderful, ſince that time is often the ſweeteſt ſeaſon in the year. But, what is more extraordinary, they begin to retire ſtill earlier in the moſt ſoutherly parts of *Andaluſia*, where they can be no ways influenced by any defect of heat; or, as one might ſuppoſe, defect of food. Are they regulated in their motions with us by a failure of food, or by a propenſity to moulting, or by a diſpoſition to reſt after ſo rapid a life, or by what? This is one of thoſe incidents in natural hiſtory that not only baffles our ſearches, but almoſt eludes our gueſſes!

Theſe

Theſe hirundines never perch on trees or roofs, and ſo never congregate with their congeners. They are fearleſs while haunting their neſting places, and are not to be ſcared with a gun; and are often beaten down with poles and cudgels as they ſtoop to go under the eaves. Swifts are much infeſted with thoſe peſts to the genus called *hippoboſcæ hirundinis*; and often wriggle and ſcratch themſelves, in their flight, to get rid of that clinging annoyance.

Swifts are no ſongſters, and have only one harſh ſcreaming note; yet there are ears to which it is not diſpleaſing, from an agreeable aſſociation of ideas, ſince that note never occurs but in the moſt lovely ſummer weather.

They never ſettle on the ground but through accident; and when down can hardly riſe, on account of the ſhortneſs of their legs and the length of their wings: neither can they walk, but only crawl; but they have a ſtrong graſp with their feet, by which they cling to walls. Their bodies being flat they can enter a very narrow crevice; and where they cannot paſs on their bellies they will turn up edgewiſe.

The particular formation of the foot diſcriminates the ſwift from all the *Britiſh hirundines*; and indeed from all other known birds, the *hirundo melba*, or great white-bellied ſwift of *Gibraltar*, excepted; for it is ſo diſpoſed as to carry "*omnes quatuor digitos anticos*" all it's four toes forward; beſides the leaſt toe, which ſhould be the back-toe, conſiſts of one bone alone, and the other three only of two apiece. A conſtruction moſt rare and peculiar, but nicely adapted to the purpoſes in which their feet are employed. This, and ſome peculiarities attending the noſtrils and under mandible, have induced a diſcerning [h] naturaliſt to ſuppoſe that this *ſpecies* might conſtitute a *genus per ſe*.

[h] John Antony Scopoli, of Carniola, M. D.

In *London* a party of ſwifts frequents the *Tower*, playing and feeding over the river juſt below the bridge: others haunt ſome of the churches of the *Borough* next the fields; but do not venture, like the *houſe-martin*, into the cloſe crowded part of the town.

The *Swedes* have beſtowed a very pertinent name on this ſwallow, calling it *ring ſwala*, from the perpetual *rings* or circles that it takes round the ſcene of it's nidification.

Swifts feed on *coleoptera*, or ſmall beetles with hard caſes over their wings, as well as on the ſofter inſects; but it does not appear how they can procure gravel to grind their food, as ſwallows do, ſince they never ſettle on the ground. Young ones, over-run with *hippoboſcæ*, are ſometimes found, under their neſts, fallen to the ground; the number of vermin rendering their abode inſupportable any longer. They frequent in this village ſeveral abject cottages; yet a ſucceſſion ſtill haunts the ſame unlikely roofs: a good proof this that the ſame birds return to the ſame ſpots. As they muſt ſtoop very low to get up under theſe humble eaves, cats lie in wait, and ſometimes catch them on the wing.

On the fifth of *July*, 1775, I again untiled part of a roof over the neſt of a ſwift. The dam ſat in the neſt; but ſo ſtrongly was ſhe affected by natural στοργη for her brood, which ſhe ſuppoſed to be in danger, that, regardleſs of her own ſafety, ſhe would not ſtir, but lay ſullenly by them, permitting herſelf to be taken in hand. The ſquab young we brought down and placed on the graſs-plot, where they tumbled about, and were as helpleſs as a new-born child. While we contemplated their naked bodies, their unwieldy diſproportioned abdomina, and their heads, too heavy for their necks to ſupport, we could not but wonder when we reflected that theſe ſhiftleſs beings in a little more than a fortnight would be able to daſh through the air almoſt with the inconceivable

inconceivable ſwiftneſs of a meteor; and perhaps, in their emigration, muſt traverſe vaſt continents and oceans as diſtant as the equator. So ſoon does Nature advance ſmall birds to their ἡλικια, or ſtate of perfection; while the progreſſive growth of men and large quadrupeds is ſlow and tedious!

I am, &c.

LETTER XXII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Sept. 13, 1774.

By means of a ſtraight cottage-chimney I had an opportunity this ſummer of remarking, at my leiſure, how ſwallows aſcend and deſcend through the ſhaft: but my pleaſure, in contemplating the addreſs with which this feat was performed to a conſiderable depth in the chimney, was ſomewhat interrupted by apprehenſions leſt my eyes might undergo the ſame fate with thoſe of *Tobit*.[1]

Perhaps it may be ſome amuſement to you to hear at what times the different ſpecies of hirundines arrived this ſpring in three very diſtant counties of this kingdom. With us the

[1] Tobit 2. 10.

ſwallow was ſeen firſt on *April* the 4th, the ſwift on *April* the 24th, the bank-martin on *April* the 12th, and the houſe-martin not till *April* the 30th. At *South Zele*, *Devonſhire*, ſwallows did not arrive till *April* the 25th; ſwifts, in plenty, on *May* the 1ſt; and houſe-martins not till the middle of *May*. At *Blackburn*, in *Lancaſhire*, ſwifts were ſeen *April* the 28th, ſwallows *April* the 29th, houſe-martins *May* the 1ſt. Do theſe different dates, in ſuch diſtant diſtricts, prove any thing for or againſt migration?

A farmer, near *Weyhill*, fallows his land with two teams of aſſes; one of which works till noon, and the other in the afternoon. When theſe animals have done their work, they are penned all night, like ſheep, on the fallow. In the winter they are confined and foddered in a yard, and make plenty of dung.

Linnæus ſays that hawks "*paciſcuntur inducias cum avibus, quamdiu cuculus cuculat*:" but it appears to me that, during that period, many little birds are taken and deſtroyed by birds of prey, as may be ſeen by their feathers left in lanes and under hedges.

The *miſſel-thruſh* is, while breeding, fierce and pugnacious, driving ſuch birds as approach its neſt, with great fury, to a diſtance. The *Welch* call it *pen y llwyn*, the head or maſter of the coppice. He ſuffers no magpie, jay, or blackbird, to enter the garden where he haunts; and is, for the time, a good guard to the new-ſown legumens. In general he is very ſucceſsful in the defence of his family: but once I obſerved in my garden, that ſeveral magpies came determined to ſtorm the neſt of a miſſel-thruſh: the dams defended their manſion with great vigour, and fought reſolutely *pro aris & focis*; but numbers at laſt prevailed, they tore the neſt to pieces, and ſwallowed the young alive.

In

In the ſeaſon of nidification the wildeſt birds are comparatively tame. Thus the *ring-dove* breeds in my fields, though they are continually frequented; and the miſſel-thruſh, though moſt ſhy and wild in the autumn and winter, builds in my garden cloſe to a walk where people are paſſing all day long.

Wall-fruit abounds with me this year; but my grapes, that uſed to be forward and good, are at preſent backward beyond all precedent: and this is not the worſt of the ſtory; for the ſame ungenial weather, the ſame black cold ſolſtice, has injured the more neceſſary fruits of the earth, and diſcoloured and blighted our wheat. The crop of hops promiſes to be very large.

Frequent returns of deafneſs incommode me ſadly, and half diſqualify me for a naturaliſt; for, when thoſe fits are upon me, I loſe all the pleaſing notices and little intimations ariſing from rural ſounds; and *May* is to me as ſilent and mute with reſpect to the notes of birds, &c. as *Auguſt*. My eyeſight is, thank God, quick and good; but with reſpect to the other ſenſe, I am, at times, diſabled:

"And Wiſdom at one entrance quite ſhut out."

LETTER

LETTER XXIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, June 8, 1775.

ON *September* the 21ſt, 1741, being then on a viſit, and intent on field-diverſions, I roſe before daybreak: when I came into the encloſures, I found the ſtubbles and clover-grounds matted all over with a thick coat of cobweb, in the meſhes of which a copious and heavy dew hung ſo plentifully that the whole face of the country ſeemed, as it were, covered with two or three ſetting-nets drawn one over another. When the dogs attempted to hunt, their eyes were ſo blinded and hoodwinked that they could not proceed, but were obliged to lie down and ſcrape the incumbrances from their faces with their fore-feet, ſo that, finding my ſport interrupted, I returned home muſing in my mind on the oddneſs of the occurrence.

As the morning advanced the ſun became bright and warm, and the day turned out one of thoſe moſt lovely ones which no ſeaſon but the autumn produces; cloudleſs, calm, ſerene, and worthy of the South of *France* itſelf.

About nine an appearance very unuſual began to demand our attention, a ſhower of cobwebs falling from very elevated regions, and continuing, without any interruption, till the cloſe of the day. Theſe webs were not ſingle filmy threads, floating in the air in all directions, but perfect flakes or rags; ſome near an inch

inch broad, and five or ſix long, which fell with a degree of velocity that ſhewed they were conſiderably heavier than the atmoſphere.

On every ſide as the obſerver turned his eyes might he behold a continual ſucceſſion of freſh flakes falling into his ſight, and twinkling like ſtars as they turned their ſides towards the ſun.

How far this wonderful ſhower extended would be difficult to ſay; but we know that it reached *Bradley*, *Selborne*, and *Alresford*, three places which lie in a ſort of a triangle, the ſhorteſt of whoſe ſides is about eight miles in extent.

At the ſecond of thoſe places there was a gentleman (for whoſe veracity and intelligent turn we have the greateſt veneration) who obſerved it the moment he got abroad; but concluded that, as ſoon as he came upon the hill above his houſe, where he took his morning rides, he ſhould be higher than this meteor, which he imagined might have been blown, like *Thiſtle-down*, from the common above: but, to his great aſtoniſhment, when he rode to the moſt elevated part of the down, 300 feet above his fields, he found the webs in appearance ſtill as much above him as before; ſtill deſcending into ſight in a conſtant ſucceſſion, and twinkling in the ſun, ſo as to draw the attention of the moſt incurious.

Neither before nor after was any ſuch fall obſerved; but on this day the flakes hung in the trees and hedges ſo thick, that a diligent perſon ſent out might have gathered baſkets full.

The remark that I ſhall make on theſe cobweb-like appearances, called *goſſamer*, is, that, ſtrange and ſuperſtitious as the notions about them were formerly, nobody in theſe days doubts but that they are the real production of ſmall ſpiders, which ſwarm in the fields in fine weather in autumn, and have a power of ſhooting out webs from their tails ſo as to render themſelves buoyant, and lighter

lighter than air. But why theſe apterous inſects ſhould *that day* take ſuch a wonderful aërial excurſino, and why their webs ſhould at once become ſo groſs and material as to be conſiderably more weighty than air, and to deſcend with precipitation, is a matter beyond my ſkill. If I might be allowed to hazard a ſuppoſition, I ſhould imagine that thoſe filmy threads, when firſt ſhot, might be entangled in the riſing dew, and ſo drawn up, ſpiders and all, by a briſk evaporation into the regions where clouds are formed: and if the ſpiders have a power of coiling and thickening their webs in the air, as Dr. *Liſter* ſays they have, [ſee his Letters to Mr. *Ray*] then, when they were become heavier than the air, they muſt fall.

Every day in fine weather, in autumn chiefly, do I ſee thoſe ſpiders ſhooting out their webs and mounting aloft: they will go off from your finger if you will take them into your hand. Laſt ſummer one alighted on my book as I was reading in the parlour; and, running to the top of the page, and ſhooting out a web, took it's departure from thence. But what I moſt wondered at was, that it went off with conſiderable velocity in a place where no air was ſtirring; and I am ſure that I did not aſſiſt it with my breath. So that theſe little crawlers ſeem to have, while mounting, ſome loco-motive power without the uſe of wings, and to move in the air faſter than the air itſelf.

LETTER

LETTER XXIV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Aug. 15, 1775.

THERE is a wonderful ſpirit of ſociality in the brute creation, independent of ſexual attachment: the congregating of gregarious birds in the winter is a remarkable inſtance.

Many horſes, though quiet with company, will not ſtay one minute in a field by themſelves: the ſtrongeſt fences cannot reſtrain them. My neighbour's horſe will not only not ſtay by himſelf abroad, but he will not bear to be left alone in a ſtrange ſtable without diſcovering the utmoſt impatience, and endeavouring to break the rack and manger with his fore feet. He has been known to leap out at a ſtable-window, through which dung was thrown, after company; and yet in other reſpects is remarkably quiet. Oxen and cows will not fatten by themſelves; but will neglect the fineſt paſture that is not recommended by ſociety. It would be needleſs to inſtance in ſheep, which conſtantly flock together.

But this propenſity ſeems not to be confined to animals of the ſame ſpecies; for we know a doe, ſtill alive, that was brought up from a little fawn with a dairy of cows; with them it goes a-field, and with them it returns to the yard. The dogs of the houſe take no notice of this deer, being uſed to her; but, if ſtrange dogs come by, a chaſe enſues; while the maſter ſmiles to ſee his favourite ſecurely leading her purſuers over hedge, or

gate, or ſtile, till ſhe returns to the cows, who, with fierce lowings and menacing horns, drive the aſſailants quite out of the paſture.

Even great diſparity of kind and ſize does not always prevent ſocial advances and mutual fellowſhip. For a very intelligent and obſervant perſon has aſſured me that, in the former part of his life, keeping but one horſe, he happened alſo on a time to have but one ſolitary hen. Theſe two incongruous animals ſpent much of their time together in a lonely orchard, where they ſaw no creature but each other. By degrees an apparent regard began to take place between theſe two ſequeſtered individuals. The fowl would approach the quadruped with notes of complacency, rubbing herſelf gently againſt his legs: while the horſe would look down with ſatisfaction, and move with the greateſt caution and circumſpection, leſt he ſhould trample on his dimunitive companion. Thus, by mutual good offices, each ſeemed to conſole the vacant hours of the other: ſo that *Milton*, when he puts the following ſentiment in the mouth of *Adam*, ſeems to be ſomewhat miſtaken:

> "Much leſs can *bird* with *beaſt*, or fiſh with fowl,
> "So well converſe, nor with the ox the ape."

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XXV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Oct. 2, 1775.

WE have two gangs or hordes of gypſies which infeſt the ſouth and weſt of *England*, and come round in their circuit two or three times in the year. One of theſe tribes calls itſelf by the noble name of *Stanley*, of which I have nothing particular to ſay; but the other is diſtinguiſhed by an appellative ſomewhat remarkable—As far as their harſh gibberiſh can be underſtood, they ſeem to ſay that the name of their clan is *Curleople:* now the termination of this word is apparently *Grecian:* and as *Mezeray* and the graveſt hiſtorians all agree that theſe vagrants did certainly migrate from *Egypt* and the Eaſt, two or three centuries ago, and ſo ſpread by degrees over *Europe*, may not this family-name, a little corrupted, be the very name they brought with them from the *Levant?* It would be matter of ſome curioſity, could one meet with an intelligent perſon among them, to inquire whether, in their jargon, they ſtill retain any *Greek* words: the *Greek* radicals will appear in hand, foot, head, water, earth, &c. It is poſſible that amidſt their cant and corrupted dialect many mutilated remains of their native language might ſtill be diſcovered.

With regard to thoſe peculiar people, the gypſies, one thing is very remarkable, and eſpecially as they came from warmer climates; and that is, that while other beggars lodge in barns,

ſtables, and cow-houſes, theſe ſturdy ſavages ſeem to pride themſelves in braving the ſeverities of winter, and in living *ſub dio* the whole year round. Laſt *September* was as wet a month as ever was known; and yet during thoſe deluges did a young gypſy-girl lie-in in the midſt of one of our hop-gardens, on the cold ground, with nothing over her but a piece of a blanket extended on a few hazel-rods bent hoop faſhion, and ſtuck into the earth at each end, in circumſtances too trying for a cow in the ſame condition: yet within this garden there was a large hop-kiln, into the chambers of which ſhe might have retired, had ſhe thought ſhelter an object worthy her attention.

Europe itſelf, it ſeems, cannot ſet bounds to the rovings of theſe vagabonds; for Mr. *Bell*, in his return from *Peking*, met a gang of theſe people on the confines of *Tartary*, who were endeavouring to penetrate thoſe deſerts and try their fortune in *China* [k].

Gypſies are called in *French*, *Bohemiens*; in *Italian* and modern *Greek*, *Zingani*.

I am, &c.

[k] See Bell's Travels in China.

LETTER

LETTER XXVI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Nov. 1, 1775.

" Hîc - - - - tædæ pingues, hîc plurimus ignis
" Semper, et aſſiduâ poſtes fuligine nigri."

I SHALL make no apology for troubling you with the detail of a very ſimple piece of domeſtic œconomy, being ſatisfied that you think nothing beneath your attention that tends to utility: the matter alluded to is the uſe of *ruſhes* inſtead of candles, which I am well aware prevails in many diſtricts beſides this; but as I know there are countries alſo where it does not obtain, and as I have conſidered the ſubject with ſome degree of exactneſs, I ſhall proceed in my humble ſtory, and leave you to judge of the expediency.

The proper ſpecies of *ruſh* for this purpoſe ſeems to be the *juncus effuſus*, or common ſoft ruſh, which is to be found in moſt moiſt paſtures, by the ſides of ſtreams, and under hedges. Theſe ruſhes are in beſt condition in the height of ſummer; but may be gathered, ſo as to ſerve the purpoſe well, quite on to autumn. It would be needleſs to add that the largeſt and longeſt are beſt. Decayed labourers, women, and children, make it their buſineſs to procure and prepare them. As ſoon as they are cut they muſt be flung into water, and kept there; for otherwiſe they will dry and ſhrink, and the peel will not run. At firſt a perſon would find

find it no eaſy matter to diveſt a ruſh of it's peel or rind, ſo as to leave one regular, narrow, even rib from top to bottom that may ſupport the pith: but this, like other feats, ſoon becomes familiar even to children; and we have ſeen an old woman, ſtone-blind, performing this buſineſs with great diſpatch, and ſeldom failing to ſtrip them with the niceſt regularity. When theſe *junci* are thus far prepared, they muſt lie out on the graſs to be bleached, and take the dew for ſome nights, and afterwards be dried in the ſun.

Some addreſs is required in dipping theſe ruſhes in the ſcalding fat or greaſe; but this knack alſo is to be attained by practice. The careful wife of an induſtrious *Hampſhire* labourer obtains all her fat for nothing; for ſhe ſaves the ſcummings of her bacon-pot for this uſe; and, if the greaſe abounds with ſalt, ſhe cauſes the ſalt to precipitate to the bottom, by ſetting the ſcummings in a warm oven. Where hogs are not much in uſe, and eſpecially by the ſea-ſide, the coarſer animal-oils will come very cheap. A pound of common greaſe may be procured for four pence; and about ſix pounds of greaſe will dip a pound of ruſhes; and one pound of ruſhes may be bought for one ſhilling: ſo that a pound of ruſhes, medicated and ready for uſe, will coſt three ſhillings. If men that keep bees will mix a little wax with the greaſe, it will give it a conſiſtency, and render it more cleanly, and make the ruſhes burn longer: mutton-ſuet would have the ſame effect.

A good ruſh, which meaſured in length two feet four inches and an half, being minuted, burnt only three minutes ſhort of an hour: and a ruſh ſtill of greater length has been known to burn one hour and a quarter.

Theſe ruſhes give a good clear light. Watch-lights (coated with tallow), it is true, ſhed a diſmal one, "darkneſs viſible;" but then

then the wick of thoſe have *two* ribs of the rind, or peel, to ſupport the pith, while the wick of the dipped ruſh has but *one*. The *two* ribs are intended to impede the progreſs of the flame and make the candle laſt.

In a pound of dry ruſhes, avoirdupois, which I cauſed to be weighed and numbered, we found upwards of one thouſand ſix hundred individuals. Now ſuppoſe each of theſe burns, one with another, only half an hour, then a poor man will purchaſe eight hundred hours of light, a time exceeding thirty-three entire days, for three ſhillings. According to this account each ruſh, before dipping, coſts $\frac{1}{3^3}$ of a farthing, and $\frac{1}{11}$ afterwards. Thus a poor family will enjoy $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours of comfortable light for a farthing. An experienced old houſekeeper aſſures me that one pound and an half of ruſhes completely ſupplies his family the year round, ſince working people burn no candle in the long days, becauſe they riſe and go to bed by daylight.

Little farmers uſe ruſhes much in the ſhort days, both morning and evening, in the dairy and kitchen; but the very poor, who are always the worſt œconomiſts, and therefore muſt continue very poor, buy an halfpenny candle every evening, which, in their blowing open rooms, does not burn much more than two hours. Thus have they only two hours light for their money inſtead of eleven.

While on the ſubject of rural œconomy, it may not be improper to mention a pretty implement of houſewifery that we have ſeen no where elſe; that is, little neat beſoms which our foreſters make from the ſtalks of the *polytricum commune*, or *great golden maiden-hair*, which they call *ſilk-wood*, and find plenty in the bogs. When this moſs is well combed and dreſſed, and diveſted of it's outer ſkin, it becomes of a beautiful bright-cheſnut colour; and, being

ſoft

ſoft and pliant, is very proper for the duſting of beds, curtains, carpets, hangings, &c. If theſe beſoms were known to the bruſh-makers in town, it is probable they might come much in uſe for the purpoſe above-mentioned[1].

I am, &c.

LETTER XXVII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Dec. 12, 1775.

WE had in this village more than twenty years ago an idiot-boy, whom I well remember, who, from a child, ſhewed a ſtrong propenſity to bees; they were his food, his amuſement, his ſole object. And as people of this caſt have ſeldom more than one point in view, ſo this lad exerted all his few faculties on this one purſuit. In the winter he doſed away his time, within his father's houſe, by the fire ſide, in a kind of torpid ſtate, ſeldom departing from the chimney-corner; but in the ſummer he was all alert, and in queſt of his game in the fields, and on ſunny banks. Honey-bees, humble-bees, and waſps, were his prey wherever he found them: he had no apprehenſions from their ſtings, but would ſeize

[1] A beſom of this ſort is to be ſeen in Sir *Aſhton Lever*'s Muſeum.

them

ſeize them *nudis manibus*, and at once diſarm them of their weapons, and ſuck their bodies for the ſake of their honey-bags. Sometimes he would fill his boſom between his ſhirt and his ſkin with a number of theſe captives; and ſometimes would confine them in bottles. He was a very *merops apiaſter*, or *bee-bird*; and very injurious to men that kept bees; for he would ſlide into their bee-gardens, and, ſitting down before the ſtools, would rap with his finger on the hives, and ſo take the bees as they came out. He has been known to overturn hives for the ſake of honey, of which he was paſſionately fond. Where metheglin was making he would linger round the tubs and veſſels, begging a draught of what he called *bee-wine*. As he ran about he uſed to make a humming noiſe with his lips, reſembling the buzzing of bees. This lad was lean and ſallow, and of a cadaverous complexion; and, except in his favourite purſuit, in which he was wonderfully adroit, diſcovered no manner of underſtanding. Had his capacity been better, and directed to the ſame object, he had perhaps abated much of our wonder at the feats of a more modern exhibiter of bees: and we may juſtly ſay of him now,

"— — — — — — — — Thou,
"Had thy preſiding ſtar propitious ſhone,
"Should'ſt *Wildman* be — — — —."

When a tall youth he was removed from hence to a diſtant village, where he died, as I underſtand, before he arrived at manhood.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Jan. 8, 1776.

IT is the hardeſt thing in the world to ſhake off ſuperſtitious prejudices: they are ſucked in as it were with our mother's milk; and, growing up with us at a time when they take the faſteſt hold and make the moſt laſting impreſſions, become ſo interwoven into our very conſtitutions, that the ſtrongeſt good ſenſe is required to diſengage ourſelves from them. No wonder therefore that the lower people retain them their whole lives through, ſince their minds are not invigorated by a liberal education, and therefore not enabled to make any efforts adequate to the occaſion.

Such a preamble ſeems to be neceſſary before we enter on the ſuperſtitions of this diſtrict, leſt we ſhould be ſuſpected of exaggeration in a recital of practices too groſs for this enlightened age.

But the people of *Tring*, in *Hertfordſhire*, would do well to remember, that no longer ago than the year 1751, and within twenty miles of the capital, they ſeized on two ſuperannuated wretches, crazed with age, and overwhelmed with infirmities, on a ſuſpicion of witchcraft; and, by trying experiments, drowned them in a horſe-pond.

In a farm-yard near the middle of this village ſtands, at this day, a row of pollard-aſhes, which, by the ſeams and long cicatrices down their ſides, manifeſtly ſhew that, in former times, they have been cleft aſunder. Theſe trees, when young and flexible, were ſevered and held open by wedges, while ruptured children, ſtripped

ped naked, were puſhed through the apertures, under a perſuaſion that, by ſuch a proceſs, the poor babes would be cured of their infirmity. As ſoon as the operation was over, the tree, in the ſuffering part, was plaſtered with loam, and carefully ſwathed up. If the parts coaleſced and ſoldered together, as uſually fell out, where the feat was performed with any adroitneſs at all, the party was cured; but, where the cleft continued to gape, the operation, it was ſuppoſed, would prove ineffectual. Having occaſion to enlarge my garden not long ſince, I cut down two or three ſuch trees, one of which did not grow together.

We have ſeveral perſons now living in the village, who, in their childhood, were ſuppoſed to be healed by this ſuperſtitious ceremony, derived down perhaps from our *Saxon* anceſtors, who practiſed it before their converſion to Chriſtianity.

At the ſouth corner of the *Pleſtor*, or area, near the church, there ſtood, about twenty-years ago, a very old groteſque hollow pollard-aſh, which for ages had been looked on with no ſmall veneration as a *ſhrew-aſh*. Now a ſhrew-aſh is an aſh whoſe twigs or branches, when gently applied to the limbs of cattle, will immediately relieve the pains which a beaſt ſuffers from the running of a *ſhrew-mouſe* over the part affected: for it is ſuppoſed that a ſhrew-mouſe is of ſo baneful and deleterious a nature, that wherever it creeps over a beaſt, be it horſe, cow, or ſheep, the ſuffering animal is afflicted with cruel anguiſh, and threatened with the loſs of the uſe of the limb. Againſt this accident, to which they were continually liable, our provident fore-fathers always kept a ſhrew-aſh at hand, which, when once medicated, would maintain it's virtue for ever. A ſhrew-aſh was made thus[m]:—Into the body of the

[m] For a ſimilar practice, ſee *Plot's Staffordſhire*.

tree a deep hole was bored with an auger, and a poor devoted ſhrew-mouſe was thruſt in alive, and plugged in, no doubt, with ſeveral quaint incantations long ſince forgotten. As the ceremonies neceſſary for ſuch a conſecration are no longer underſtood, all ſucceſſion is at an end, and no ſuch tree is known to ſubſiſt in the manor, or hundred.

As to that on the *Pleſtor*

" The late vicar ſtubb'd and burnt it."

when he was way-warden, regardleſs of the remonſtrances of the by-ſtanders, who interceded in vain for it's preſervation, urging it's power and efficacy, and alledging that it had been

" Religione patrum multos ſervata per annos."

I am, &c.

LETTER XXIX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Feb. 7, 1776.

In heavy fogs, on elevated ſituations eſpecially, trees are perfect alembics; and no one that has not attended to ſuch matters can imagine how much water one tree will diſtil in a night's time, by condenſing the vapour, which trickles down the twigs and boughs, ſo as to make the ground below quite in a float. In *Newton-lane*, in

in *October* 1775, on a miſty day, a particular oak in leaf dropped ſo faſt that the cart-way ſtood in puddles and the ruts ran with water, though the ground in general was duſty.

In ſome of our ſmaller iſlands in the *Weſt-Indies*, if I miſtake not, there are no ſprings or rivers; but the people are ſupplied with that neceſſary element, water, merely by the dripping of ſome large tall trees, which, ſtanding in the boſom of a mountain, keep their heads conſtantly enveloped with fogs and clouds, from which they diſpenſe their kindly never-ceaſing moiſture; and ſo render thoſe diſtricts habitable by condenſation alone.

Trees in leaf have ſuch a vaſt proportion more of ſurface than thoſe that are naked, that, in theory, their condenſations ſhould greatly exceeed thoſe that are ſtripped of their leaves; but, as the former *imbibe* alſo a great quantity of moiſture, it is difficult to ſay which drip moſt: but this I know, that deciduous trees that are entwined with much ivy ſeem to diſtil the greateſt quantity. Ivy-leaves are ſmooth, and thick, and cold, and therefore condenſe very faſt; and beſides ever-greens imbibe very little. Theſe facts may furniſh the intelligent with hints concerning what ſorts of trees they ſhould plant round ſmall ponds that they would wiſh to be perennial; and ſhew them how advantageous ſome trees are in preference to others.

Trees perſpire profuſely, condenſe largely, and check evaporation ſo much, that woods are always moiſt; no wonder therefore that they contribute much to pools and ſtreams.

That trees are great promoters of lakes and rivers appears from a well known fact in *North-America*; for, ſince the woods and foreſts have been grubbed and cleared, all bodies of water are much diminiſhed; ſo that ſome ſtreams, that were very conſiderable a

century

century ago, will not now drive a common mill[n]. Beſides, moſt woodlands, foreſts, and chaſes, with us abound with pools and moraſſes; no doubt for the reaſon given above.

To a thinking mind few phenomena are more ſtrange than the ſtate of little ponds on the ſummits of chalk-hills, many of which are never dry in the moſt trying droughts of ſummer. On *chalk-hills* I ſay, becauſe in many rocky and gravelly ſoils ſprings uſually break out pretty high on the ſides of elevated grounds and mountains; but no perſon acquainted with chalky diſtricts will allow that they ever ſaw ſprings in ſuch a ſoil but in vallies and bottoms, ſince the waters of ſo pervious a ſtratum as chalk all lie on one dead level, as well-diggers have aſſured me again and again.

Now we have many ſuch little round ponds in this diſtrict; and one in particular on our ſheep-down, three hundred feet above my houſe; which, though never above three feet deep in the middle, and not more than thirty feet in diameter, and containing perhaps not more than two or three hundred hogſheads of water, yet never is known to fail, though it affords drink for three hundred or four hundred ſheep, and for at leaſt twenty head of large cattle beſide. This pond, it is true, is over-hung with two moderate beeches, that, doubtleſs, at times afford it much ſupply: but then we have others as ſmall, that, without the aid of trees, and in ſpite of evaporation from ſun and wind, and perpetual conſumption by cattle, yet conſtantly maintain a moderate ſhare of water, without overflowing in the wetteſt ſeaſons, as they would do if ſupplied by ſprings. By my journal of *May*, 1775, it appears that "the ſmall "and even conſiderable ponds in the vales are now dried up, while "the ſmall ponds on the very tops of hills are but little affected." Can this difference be accounted for from evaporation alone, which certainly is more prevalent in bottoms? or rather have not thoſe

[n] Vide *Kalm*'s Travels to *North-America*.

elevated

elevated pools ſome unnoticed recruits, which in the night time counterbalance the waſte of the day; without which the cattle alone muſt ſoon exhauſt them? And here it will be neceſſary to enter more minutely into the cauſe. Dr. *Hales*, in his Vegetable Statics, advances, from experiment, that "the moiſter the earth is the more "dew falls on it in a night: and more than a *double* quantity of "dew falls on a ſurface of *water* than there does on an equal "ſurface of moiſt earth." Hence we ſee that water, by it's coolneſs, is enabled to aſſimilate to itſelf a large quantity of moiſture nightly by condenſation; and that the air, when loaded with fogs and vapours, and even with copious dews, can alone advance a conſiderable and never-failing reſource. Perſons that are much abroad, and travel early and late; ſuch as ſhepherds, fiſhermen, &c. can tell what prodigious fogs prevail in the night on elevated downs, even in the hotteſt parts of ſummer; and how much the ſurfaces of things are drenched by thoſe ſwimming vapours, though, to the ſenſes, all the while, little moiſture ſeems to fall.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XXX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, April 3, 1776.

MONSIEUR HERISSANT, a *French* anatomiſt, ſeems perſuaded that he has diſcovered the reaſon why cuckoos do not hatch their own eggs; the impediment, he ſuppoſes, ariſes from the internal ſtructure of their parts, which incapacitates them for incubation. According to this gentleman, the crop, or craw, of a cuckoo does not lie before the ſternum at the bottom of the neck, as in the *gallinæ*, *columbæ*, &c. but immediately behind it, on and over the bowels, ſo as to make a large protuberance in the belly°.

Induced by this aſſertion, we procured a cuckoo; and, cutting open the breaſt-bone, and expoſing the inteſtines to ſight, found the crop lying as mentioned above. This ſtomach was large and round, and ſtuffed hard like a pincuſhion with food, which, upon nice examination, we found to conſiſt of various inſects; ſuch as ſmall ſcarabs, ſpiders, and dragon-flies; the laſt of which we have ſeen cuckoos catching on the wing as they were juſt emerging out of the aurelia ſtate. Among this farrago alſo were to be ſeen maggots, and many ſeeds, which belonged either to gooſeberries, currants, cranberries, or ſome ſuch fruit; ſo that theſe birds ap-

° *Hiſtoire de l'Academie Royale*, 1752.

parently

parently ſubſiſt on inſects and fruits: nor was there the leaſt appearance of bones, feathers, or fur, to ſupport the idle notion of their being birds of prey.

The ſternum in this bird ſeemed to us to be remarkably ſhort, between which and the anus lay the crop, or craw, and immediately behind that the bowels againſt the back-bone.

It muſt be allowed, as this anatomiſt obſerves, that the crop placed juſt upon the bowels muſt, eſpecially when full, be in a very uneaſy ſituation during the buſineſs of incubation; yet the teſt will be to examine whether birds that are actually known to ſit for certain are not formed in a ſimilar manner. This inquiry I propoſed to myſelf to make with a *fern-owl*, or goat-ſucker, as ſoon as opportunity offered: becauſe, if their formation proves the ſame, the reaſon for incapacity in the cuckoo will be allowed to have been taken up ſomewhat haſtily.

Not long after a fern-owl was procured, which, from it's habit and ſhape, we ſuſpected might reſemble the cuckoo in it's internal conſtruction. Nor were our ſuſpicions ill-grounded; for, upon the diſſection, the crop, or craw, alſo lay behind the ſternum, immediately on the viſcera, between them and the ſkin of the belly. It was bulky, and ſtuffed hard with large *phalænæ*, moths of ſeveral ſorts, and their eggs, which no doubt had been forced out of thoſe inſects by the action of ſwallowing.

Now as it appears that this bird, which is ſo well known to practiſe incubation, is formed in a ſimilar manner with cuckoos, Monſieur *Heriſſant*'s conjecture, that cuckoos are incapable of incubation from the diſpoſition of their inteſtines, ſeems to fall to the ground; and we are ſtill at a loſs for the cauſe of that ſtrange and ſingular peculiarity in the inſtance of the *cuculus canorus*.

We found the caſe to be the ſame with the ring-tail hawk, in reſpect to formation; and, as far as I can recollect, with the ſwift; and probably it is ſo with many more ſorts of birds that are not granivorous.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, April 29, 1776.

ON *Auguſt* the 4th, 1775, we ſurpriſed a large viper, which ſeemed very heavy and bloated, as it lay in the graſs baſking in the ſun. When we came to cut it up, we found that the abdomen was crowded with young, fifteen in number; the ſhorteſt of which meaſured full ſeven inches, and were about the ſize of full-grown earth-worms. This little fry iſſued into the world with the true viper-ſpirit about them, ſhewing great alertneſs as ſoon as diſengaged from the belly of the dam: they twiſted and wriggled about, and ſet themſelves up, and gaped very wide when touched with a ſtick, ſhewing manifeſt tokens of menace and defiance, though as yet they had no manner of fangs that we could find, even with the help of our glaſſes.

To

To a thinking mind nothing is more wonderful than that early inſtinct which impreſſes young animals with the notion of the ſituation of their natural weapons, and of uſing them properly in their own defence, even before thoſe weapons ſubſiſt or are formed. Thus a young cock will ſpar at his adverſary before his ſpurs are grown; and a calf or a lamb will puſh with their heads before their horns are ſprouted. In the ſame manner did theſe young adders attempt to bite before their fangs were in being. The dam however was furniſhed with very formidable ones, which we lifted up (for they fold down when not uſed) and cut them off with the point of our ſciſſars.

There was little room to ſuppoſe that this brood had ever been in the open air before; and that they were taken in for refuge, at the mouth of the dam, when ſhe perceived that danger was approaching; becauſe then probably we ſhould have found them ſomewhere in the neck, and not in the abdomen.

LETTER XXXII.

TO THE SAME.

CASTRATION has a ſtrange effect: it emaſculates both man, beaſt, and bird, and brings them to a near reſemblance of the other ſex. Thus eunuchs have ſmooth unmuſcular arms, thighs, and legs; and broad hips, and beardleſs chins, and ſqueaking voices. Gelt-ſtags and bucks have hornleſs heads, like hinds and does. Thus wethers have ſmall horns, like ewes; and oxen large bent horns, and hoarſe voices when they low, like cows: for bulls have ſhort ſtraight horns; and though they mutter and grumble in a deep tremendous tone, yet they low in a ſhrill high key. Capons have ſmall combs and gills, and look pallid about the head, like pullets; they alſo walk without any parade, and hover chickens like hens. Barrow-hogs have alſo ſmall tuſks like ſows.

Thus far it is plain that the deprivation of *maſculine vigour* puts a ſtop to the growth of thoſe parts or appendages that are looked upon as it's inſignia. But the ingenious Mr. *Liſle*, in his book on huſbandry, carries it much farther; for he ſays that the loſs of thoſe inſignia alone has ſometimes a ſtrange effect on the ability itſelf: he had a boar ſo fierce and venereous, that, to prevent miſchief, orders were given for his tuſks to be broken off. No ſooner had the beaſt ſuffered this injury than his powers forſook him, and he neglected thoſe females to whom before he was paſſionately attached, and from whom no fences could reſtrain him.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

TO THE SAME.

THE natural term of an hog's life is little known, and the reaſon is plain—becauſe it is neither profitable nor convenient to keep that turbulent animal to the full extent of it's time: however, my neighbour, a man of ſubſtance, who had no occaſion to ſtudy every little advantage to a nicety, kept an half bred Bantam-ſow, who was as thick as ſhe was long, and whoſe belly ſwept on the ground till ſhe was advanced to her ſeventeenth year; at which period ſhe ſhewed ſome tokens of age by the decay of her teeth and the decline of her fertility.

For about ten years this prolific mother produced two litters in the year of about ten at a time, and once above twenty at a litter; but, as there were near double the number of pigs to that of teats, many died. From long experience in the world this female was grown very ſagacious and artful:—when ſhe found occaſion to converſe with a boar ſhe uſed to open all the intervening gates, and march, by herſelf, up to a diſtant farm where one was kept; and when her purpoſe was ſerved would return by the ſame means. At the age of about fifteen her litters began to be reduced to four or five; and ſuch a litter ſhe exhibited when in her fatting-pen. She proved, when fat, good bacon, juicy, and tender; the rind, or ſward, was remarkably thin. At a moderate computation ſhe

was

was allowed to have been the fruitful parent of three hundred pigs: a prodigious inſtance of fecundity in ſo large a quadruped! She was killed in ſpring 1775.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXIV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, May 9, 1776.

"— — — — — admorunt ubera tigres."

WE have remarked in a former letter how much incongruous animals, in a lonely ſtate, may be attached to each other from a ſpirit of ſociality; in this it may not be amiſs to recount a different motive which has been known to create as ſtrange a fondneſs.

My friend had a little helpleſs *leveret* brought to him, which the ſervants fed with milk in a ſpoon, and about the ſame time his cat kittened and the young were diſpatched and buried. The hare was ſoon loſt, and ſuppoſed to be gone the way of moſt fondlings, to be killed by ſome dog or cat. However, in about a fortnight, as the maſter was ſitting in his garden in the duſk of the evening, he obſerved his cat, with tail erect, trotting towards him, and calling with little ſhort inward notes of complacency, ſuch

ſuch as they uſe towards their kittens, and ſomething gamboling after, which proved to be the leveret that the cat had ſupported with her milk, and continued to ſupport with great affection.

Thus was a graminivorous animal nurtured by a carnivorous and predaceous one!

Why ſo cruel and ſanguinary a beaſt as a cat, of the ferocious genus of *Feles*, the *murium leo*, as *Linnæus* calls it, ſhould be affected with any tenderneſs towards an animal which is it's natural prey, is not ſo eaſy to determine.

This ſtrange affection probably was occaſioned by that deſiderium, thoſe tender maternal feelings, which the loſs of her kittens had awakened in her breaſt; and by the complacency and eaſe ſhe derived to herſelf from the procuring her teats to be drawn, which were too much diſtended with milk, till, from habit, ſhe became as much delighted with this foundling as if it had been her real offspring.

This incident is no bad ſolution of that ſtrange circumſtance which grave hiſtorians as well as the poets affert, of expoſed children being ſometimes nurtured by female wild beaſts that probably had loſt their young. For it is not one whit more marvellous that *Romulus* and *Remus*, in their infant ſtate, ſhould be nurſed by a ſhe-wolf, than that a poor little ſucking leveret ſhould be foſtered and cheriſhed by a bloody grimalkin.

— — — — " viridi fœtam Mavortis in antro
" Procubuiſſe lupam: geminos huic ubera circum
" Ludere pendentes pueros, et lambere matrem
" Impavidos: illam tereti cervice reflexam
" Mulcere alternos, et corpora fingere linguâ."

LETTER

LETTER XXXV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, May 20, 1777.

LANDS that are ſubject to frequent inundations are always poor; and probably the reaſon may be becauſe the worms are drowned. The moſt inſignificant inſects and reptiles are of much more conſequence, and have much more influence in the œconomy of Nature, than the incurious are aware of; and are mighty in their effect, from their minuteneſs, which renders them leſs an object of attention; and from their numbers and fecundity. Earth-worms, though in appearance a ſmall and deſpicable link in the chain of Nature, yet, if loſt, would make a lamentable chaſm. For, to ſay nothing of half the birds, and ſome quadrupeds which are almoſt entirely ſupported by them, worms ſeem to be the great promoters of vegetation, which would proceed but lamely without them, by boring, perforating, and looſening the ſoil, and rendering it pervious to rains and the fibres of plants, by drawing ſtraws and ſtalks of leaves and twigs into it; and, moſt of all, by throwing up ſuch infinite numbers of lumps of earth called worm-caſts, which, being their excrement, is a fine manure for grain and graſs. Worms probably provide new ſoil for hills and ſlopes where the rain waſhes the earth away; and they affect ſlopes, probably to avoid being flooded. Gardeners and farmers expreſs their deteſtation of worms; the former becauſe they render their walks unſightly, and make them much work: and the latter becauſe, as they think, worms eat their green

green corn. But theſe men would find that the earth without worms would ſoon become cold, hard-bound, and void of fermentation; and conſequently ſteril: and beſides, in favour of worms, it ſhould be hinted that green corn, plants, and flowers, are not ſo much injured by them as by many ſpecies of *coleoptera* (ſcarabs), and *tipulæ* (long-legs) in their larva, or grub-ſtate; and by unnoticed myriads of ſmall ſhell-leſs ſnails, called ſlugs, which ſilently and imperceptibly make amazing havoc in the field and garden[q].

Theſe hints we think proper to throw out in order to ſet the inquiſitive and diſcerning to work.

A good monography of worms would afford much entertainment and information at the ſame time, and would open a large and new field in natural hiſtory. Worms work moſt in the ſpring; but by no means lie torpid in the dead months; are out every mild night in the winter, as any perſon may be convinced that will take the pains to examine his graſs-plots with a candle; are hermaphrodites, and much addicted to venery, and conſequently very prolific.

I am, &c.

[q] Farmer *Young*, of *Norton-farm*, ſays that this ſpring (1777) about four acres of his wheat in one field was entirely deſtroyed by *ſlugs*, which ſwarmed on the blades of corn, and devoured it as faſt as it ſprang.

LETTER XXXVI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Nov. 22, 1777.

You cannot but remember that the twenty-ſixth and twenty-ſeventh of laſt *March* were very hot days; ſo ſultry that every body complained and were reſtleſs under thoſe ſenſations to which they had not been reconciled by gradual approaches.

This ſudden ſummer-like heat was attended by many ſummer coincidences; for on thoſe two days the thermometer roſe to ſixty-ſix in the ſhade; many ſpecies of inſects revived and came forth; ſome bees ſwarmed in this neighbourhood; the old tortoiſe, near *Lewes*, in *Suſſex*, awakened and came forth out of it's dormitory; and, what is moſt to my preſent purpoſe, many *houſe-ſwallows* appeared and were very alert in many places, and particularly at *Cobham*, in *Surrey*.

But as that ſhort warm period was ſucceeded as well as preceded by harſh ſevere weather, with frequent froſts and ice, and cutting winds, the inſects withdrew, the tortoiſe retired again into the ground, and the ſwallows were ſeen no more until the tenth of *April*, when, the rigour of the ſpring abating, a ſofter ſeaſon began to prevail.

Again; it appears by my journals for many years paſt that *houſe-martins* retire, to a bird, about the beginning of *October*; ſo that a perſon not very obſervant of ſuch matters would conclude that they had

had taken their laſt farewell: but then it may be ſeen in my diaries alſo that conſiderable flocks have diſcovered themſelves again in the firſt week of *November*, and often on the fourth day of that month only *for one day*; and that not as if they were in actual migration, but playing about at their leiſure and feeding calmly, as if no enterprize of moment at all agitated their ſpirits. And this was the caſe in the beginning of this very month; for, on the fourth of *November*, more than twenty houſe-martins, which, in appearance, had all departed about the ſeventh of *October*, were ſeen again, for that *one morning only*, ſporting between my fields and *the Hanger*, and feaſting on inſects which ſwarmed in that ſheltered diſtrict. The preceding day was wet and bluſtering, but the fourth was dark and mild, and ſoft, the wind at ſouth-weſt, and the thermometer at $58\frac{1}{2}$; a pitch not common at that ſeaſon of the year. Moreover, it may no tbe amiſs to add in this place, that whenever the thermometer is above 50 the bat comes flitting out in every autumnal and winter-month.

From all theſe circumſtances laid together, it is obvious that torpid inſects, reptiles, and quadrupeds, are awakened from their profoundeſt ſlumbers by a little untimely warmth; and therefore that nothing ſo much promotes this death-like ſtupor as a defect of heat. And farther, it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe that two whole ſpecies, or at leaſt many individuals of thoſe two ſpecies, of *Britiſh hirundines*, do never leave this iſland at all, but partake of the ſame benumbed ſtate: for we cannot ſuppoſe that, after a month's abſence, houſe-martins can return from ſouthern regions to appear for *one* morning in *November*, or that houſe-ſwallows ſhould leave the diſtricts of *Africa* to enjoy, in *March*, the tranſient ſummer of a *couple* of days.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXVII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Jan. 8, 1778.

THERE was in this village ſeveral years ago a miſerable pauper, who, from his birth, was afflicted with a leproſy, as far as we are aware of a ſingular kind, ſince it affected only the palms of his hands and the ſoles of his feet. This ſcaly eruption uſually broke out twice in the year, at the ſpring and fall; and, by peeling away, left the ſkin ſo thin and tender that neither his hands or feet were able to perform their functions; ſo that the poor object was half his time on crutches, incapable of employ, and languiſhing in a tireſome ſtate of indolence and inactivity. His habit was lean, lank, and cadaverous. In this ſad plight he dragged on a miſerable exiſtence, a burden to himſelf and his pariſh, which was obliged to ſupport him till he was relieved by death at more than thirty years of age.

The good women, who love to account for every defect in children by the doctrine of longing, ſaid that his mother felt a violent propenſity for oyſters, which ſhe was unable to gratify; and that the black rough ſcurf on his hands and feet were the ſhells of that fiſh. We knew his parents, neither of which were lepers; his father in particular lived to be far advanced in years.

In all ages the leproſy has made dreadful havock among mankind. The *Iſraelites* ſeem to have been greatly afflicted with it from

from the moſt remote times; as appears from the peculiar and repeated injunctions given them in the *Levitical* law[r]. Nor was the rancour of this foul diſorder much abated in the laſt period of their commonwealth, as may be ſeen in many paſſages of the New Teſtament.

Some centuries ago this horrible diſtemper prevailed all *Europe* over; and our forefathers were by no means exempt, as appears by the large proviſion made for objects labouring under this calamity. There was an hoſpital for female lepers in the dioceſe of *Lincoln*, a noble one near *Durham*, three in *London* and *Southwark*, and perhaps many more in or near our great towns and cities. Moreover, ſome crowned heads, and other wealthy and charitable perſonages, bequeathed large legacies to ſuch poor people as languiſhed under this hopeleſs infirmity.

It muſt therefore, in theſe days, be, to an humane and thinking perſon, a matter of equal wonder and ſatisfaction, when he contemplates how nearly this peſt is eradicated, and obſerves that a leper now is a rare ſight. He will, moreover, when engaged in ſuch a train of thought, naturally inquire for the reaſon. This happy change perhaps may have originated and been continued from the much ſmaller quantity of ſalted meat and fiſh now eaten in theſe kingdoms; from the uſe of linen next the ſkin; from the plenty of better bread; and from the profuſion of fruits, roots, legumes, and greens, ſo common in every family. Three or four centuries ago, before there were any encloſures, ſown-graſſes, field-turnips, or field-carrots, or hay, all the cattle which had grown fat in ſummer, and were not killed for winter-uſe, were turned out ſoon after *Michaelmas* to ſhift as they could through the

[r] See Leviticus, chap. xiii. and xiv.

dead

dead months; ſo that no freſh meat could be had in winter or ſpring. Hence the marvellous account of the vaſt ſtores of ſalted fleſh found in the larder of the eldeſt *Spencer*[5] in the days of *Edward* the Second, even ſo late in the ſpring as the third of *May*. It was from magazines like theſe that the turbulent barons ſupported in idleneſs their riotous ſwarms of retainers ready for any diſorder or miſchief. But agriculture is now arrived at ſuch a pitch of perfection, that our beſt and fatteſt meats are killed in the winter; and no man need eat ſalted fleſh, unleſs he prefers it, that has money to buy freſh.

One cauſe of this diſtemper might be, no doubt, the quantity of wretched freſh and ſalt fiſh conſumed by the commonalty at all ſeaſons as well as in lent; which our poor now would hardly be perſuaded to touch.

The uſe of linen changes, ſhirts or ſhifts, in the room of ſordid and filthy woollen, long worn next the ſkin, is a matter of neatneſs comparatively modern; but muſt prove a great means of preventing cutaneous ails. At this very time woollen inſtead of linen prevails among the poorer *Welch*, who are ſubject to foul eruptions.

The plenty of good wheaten bread that now is found among all ranks of people in the ſouth, inſtead of that miſerable ſort which uſed in old days to be made of barley or beans, may contribute not a little to the ſweetening their blood and correcting their juices; for the inhabitants of mountainous diſtricts, to this day, are ſtill liable to the itch and other cutaneous diſorders, from a wretchedneſs and poverty of diet.

As to the produce of a garden, every middle-aged perſon of obſervation may perceive, within his own memory, both in town

[5] *Viz.* Six hundred bacons, eighty carcaſſes of beef, and ſix hundred muttons.

and

and country, how vaſtly the conſumption of vegetables is increaſed. Green-ſtalls in cities now ſupport multitudes in a comfortable ſtate, while gardeners get fortunes. Every decent labourer alſo has his garden, which is half his ſupport, as well as his delight; and common farmers provide plenty of beans, peas, and greens, for their hinds to eat with their bacon; and thoſe few that do not are deſpiſed for their ſordid parſimony, and looked upon as regardleſs of the welfare of their dependants. Potatoes have prevailed in this little diſtrict, by means of premiums, within theſe twenty years only; and are much eſteemed here now by the poor, who would ſcarce have ventured to taſte them in the laſt reign.

Our *Saxon* anceſtors certainly had ſome ſort of cabbage, becauſe they call the month of *February ſprout-cale*; but, long after their days, the cultivation of gardens was little attended to. The religious, being men of leiſure, and keeping up a conſtant correſpondence with *Italy*, were the firſt people among us that had gardens and fruit-trees in any perfection, within the walls of their abbies[t] and priories. The *barons* neglected every purſuit that did not lead to war or tend to the pleaſure of the chaſe.

It was not till gentlemen took up the ſtudy of horticulture themſelves that the knowledge of gardening made ſuch haſty advances. Lord *Cobham*, Lord *Ila*, and Mr. *Waller* of *Beaconſfield*, were ſome of the firſt people of rank that promoted the elegant ſcience of ornamenting without deſpiſing the ſuperintendence of the kitchen quarters and fruit walls.

[t] "In *monaſteries* the lamp of knowledge continued to burn, however dimly. In "them men of buſineſs were formed for the ſtate: the art of writing was cultivated by "the *monks*; they were the only proficients in mechanics, *gardening*, and architecture."
See *Dalrymple*'s Annals of *Scotland*.

A remark

A remark made by the excellent Mr. *Ray* in his Tour of *Europe* at once ſurpriſes us, and corroborates what has been advanced above; for we find him obſerving, ſo late as his days, that "the "*Italians* uſe ſeveral herbs for ſallets, which *are not yet* or have "not been but *lately* uſed in *England*, viz. *felleri* (celery) which is "nothing elſe but the ſweet ſmallage; the young ſhoots whereof, "with a little of the head of the root cut off, they eat raw with "oil and pepper." and farther he adds "*curled endive* blanched "is much uſed beyond ſeas; and, for a raw ſallet, ſeemed to excel "lettuce itſelf." Now this journey was undertaken no longer ago than in the year 1663.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

"Fortè puer, comitum ſeductus ab agmine fido,
"Dixerat, ecquis adeſt? et, adeſt, reſponderat echo.
"Hic ſtupet; utque aciem partes diviſit in omnes;
"Voce, veni, clamat magnâ. Vocat illa vocantem."

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Feb. 12, 1778.

In a diſtrict ſo diverſified as this, ſo full of hollow vales and hanging woods, it is no wonder that echoes ſhould abound. Many we have diſcovered that return the cry of a pack of dogs, the notes of a hunting-horn, a tunable ring of bells, or the melody of birds, very agreeably: but we were ſtill at a loſs for a polyſyllabical, articulate

articulate echo, till a young gentleman, who had parted from his company in a ſummer evening walk, and was calling after them, ſtumbled upon a very curious one in a ſpot where it might leaſt be expected. At firſt he was much ſurpriſed, and could not be perſuaded but that he was mocked by ſome boy; but, repeating his trials in ſeveral languages, and finding his reſpondent to be a very adroit polyglot, he then diſcerned the deception.

This echo in an evening, before rural noiſes ceaſe, would repeat ten ſyllables moſt articulately and diſtinctly, eſpecially if quick dactyls were choſen. The laſt ſyllables of

" Tityre, tu patulæ recubans - - -"

were as audibly and intelligibly returned as the firſt: and there is no doubt, could trial have been made, but that at midnight, when the air is very elaſtic, and a dead ſtillneſs prevails, one or two ſyllables more might have been obtained; but the diſtance rendered ſo late an experiment very inconvenient.

Quick dactyls, we obſerved, ſucceeded beſt; for when we came to try it's powers in ſlow, heavy, embaraſſed ſpondees of the ſame number of ſyllables,

" Monſtrum horrendum, informe, ingens - - -"

we could perceive a return but of four or five.

All echoes have ſome one place to which they are returned ſtronger and more diſtinct than to any other; and that is always the place that lies at right angles with the object of repercuſſion, and is not too near, nor too far off. Buildings, or naked rocks, re-echo much more articulately than hanging wood or vales; becauſe in the latter the voice is as it were entangled, and embaraſſed in the covert, and weakened in the rebound.

The true object of this echo, as we found by various experiments, is the ſtone-built, tiled hop-kiln in *Gally-lane*, which meaſures in front 40 feet, and from the ground to the eaves 12 feet. The true *centrum phonicum*, or juſt diſtance, is one particular ſpot in the *King's-field*, in the path to *Nore-hill*, on the very brink of the ſteep balk above the hollow cart way. In this caſe there is no choice of diſtance; but the path, by meer contingency, happens to be the lucky, the identical ſpot, becauſe the ground riſes or falls ſo immediately, if the ſpeaker either retires or advances, that his mouth would at once be above or below the object.

We meaſured this polyſyllabical echo with great exactneſs, and found the diſtance to fall very ſhort of Dr. *Plot*'s rule for diſtinct articulation: for the Doctor, in his hiſtory of *Oxfordſhire*, allows 120 feet for the return of each ſyllable diſtinctly: hence this echo, which gives ten diſtinct ſyllables, ought to meaſure 400 yards, or 120 feet to each ſyllable; whereas our diſtance is only 258 yards, or near 75 feet, to each ſyllable. Thus our meaſure falls ſhort of the Doctor's, as five to eight: but then it muſt be acknowledged that this candid philoſopher was convinced afterwards, that ſome latitude muſt be admitted of in the diſtance of echoes according to time and place.

When experiments of this ſort are making, it ſhould always be remembered that weather and the time of day have a vaſt influence on an echo; for a dull, heavy, moiſt air deadens and clogs the ſound; and hot ſunſhine renders the air thin and weak, and deprives it of all it's ſpringineſs; and a ruffling wind quite defeats the whole. In a ſtill, clear, dewy evening the air is moſt elaſtic; and perhaps the later the hour the more ſo.

Echo

Echo has always been ſo amuſing to the imagination, that the poets have perſonified her; and in their hands ſhe has been the occaſion of many a beautiful fiction. Nor need the graveſt man be aſhamed to appear taken with ſuch a phænomenon, ſince it may become the ſubject of philoſophical or mathematical inquiries.

One ſhould have imagined that echoes, if not entertaining, muſt at leaſt have been harmleſs and inoffenſive; yet *Virgil* advances a ſtrange notion, that they are injurious to bees. After enumerating ſome probable and reaſonable annoyances, ſuch as prudent owners would wiſh far removed from their bee-gardens, he adds

" — — — — — — aut ubi concava pulſu
" Saxa ſonant, vociſque offenſa reſultat imago."

This wild and fanciful aſſertion will hardly be admitted by the philoſophers of theſe days; eſpecially as they all now ſeem agreed that inſects are not furniſhed with any organs of hearing at all. But if it ſhould be urged, that though they cannot *hear* yet perhaps they may *feel* the repercuſſions of ſounds, I grant it is poſſible they may. Yet that theſe impreſſions are diſtaſteful or hurtful, I deny, becauſe bees, in good ſummers, thrive well in my outlet, where the echoes are very ſtrong: for this village is another *Anathoth*, a place of *reſponſes* or *echoes*. Beſides, it does not appear from experiment that bees are in any way capable of being affected by ſounds: for I have often tried my own with a large ſpeaking-trumpet held cloſe to their hives, and with ſuch an exertion of voice as would have haled a ſhip at the diſtance of a mile, and ſtill theſe inſects purſued their various employments undiſturbed, and without ſhewing the leaſt ſenſibility or reſentment.

Some time ſince it's diſcovery this echo is become totally ſilent, though the object, or hop-kiln, remains: nor is there any myſtery in this defect; for the field between is planted as an hop-garden, and the voice of the ſpeaker is totally abſorbed and loſt among the poles and entangled foliage of the hops. And when the poles are removed in autumn the diſappointment is the ſame; becauſe a tall quick-ſet hedge, nurtered up for the purpoſe of ſhelter to the hop ground, entirely interrupts the impulſe and repercuſſion of the voice: ſo that till thoſe obſtructions are removed no more of it's garrulity can be expected.

Should any gentleman of fortune think an echo in his park or outlet a pleaſing incident, he might *build* one at little or no expenſe. For whenever he had occaſion for a new barn, ſtable, dog-kennel, or the like ſtructure, it would be only needful to erect this building on the gentle declivity of an hill, with a like riſing oppoſite to it, at a few hundred yards diſtance; and perhaps ſucceſs might be the eaſier enſured could ſome canal, lake, or ſtream, intervene. From a ſeat at the *centrum phonicum* he and his friends might amuſe themſelves ſometimes of an evening with the prattle of this loquacious nymph; of whoſe complacency and decent reſerve more may be ſaid than can with truth of every individual of her ſex; ſince ſhe is — — — — — — — — —

" — — — — — — — quæ nec *reticere* loquenti,
" Nec *prior* ipſa *loqui* didicit reſonabilis echo."

I am, &c.

P. S.

P. S. The claſſic reader will, I truſt, pardon the following lovely quotation, ſo finely deſcribing echoes, and ſo poetically accounting for their cauſes from popular ſuperſtition:

" Quæ benè quom videas, rationem reddere poſſis
" Tute tibi atque aliis, quo pacto per loca ſola
" Saxa pareis formas verborum ex ordine reddant,
" Palanteis comites quom monteis inter opacos
" Quærimus, et magnâ diſperſos voce ciemus.
" Sex etiam, aut ſeptem loca vidi reddere voces
" Unam quom jaceres: ita colles collibus ipſis
" Verba repulſantes iterabant dicta referre.
" Hæc loca capripedes Satyros, Nymphaſque tenere
" Finitimi fingunt, et Faunos eſſe loquuntur;
" Quorum noctivago ſtrepitu, ludoque jocanti
" Adfirmant volgo taciturna ſilentia rumpi,
" Chordarumque ſonos fieri, dulceiſque querelas,
" Tibia quas fundit digitis pulſata canentum:
" Et genus agricolûm latè ſentiſcere, quom Pan
" Pinea ſemiferi capitis velamina quaſſans,
" Unco ſæpe labro calamos percurrit hianteis,
" Fiſtula ſilveſtrem ne ceſſet fundere muſam."

Lucretius, Lib. iv. l. 576.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIX.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, May 13, 1778.

AMONG the many ſingularities attending thoſe amuſing birds the *ſwifts*, I am now confirmed in the opinion that we have every year the ſame number of pairs invariably; at leaſt the reſult of my inquiry has been exactly the ſame for a long time paſt. The ſwallows and martins are ſo numerous, and ſo widely diſtributed over the village, that it is hardly poſſible to recount them; while the ſwifts, though they do not all build in the church, yet ſo frequently haunt it, and play and rendezvous round it, that they are eaſily enumerated. The number that I conſtantly find are *eight pairs*; about half of which reſide in the church, and the reſt build in ſome of the loweſt and meaneſt thatched cottages. Now as theſe eight pairs, allowance being made for accidents, breed yearly eight pairs more, what becomes annually of this increaſe; and what determines every ſpring which pairs ſhall viſit us, and reoccupy their ancient haunts?

Ever ſince I have attended to the ſubject of ornithology, I have always ſuppoſed that that ſudden reverſe of affection, that ſtrange αντιστοργη, which immediately ſucceeds in the feathered kind to the moſt paſſionate fondneſs, is the occaſion of an equal diſperſion of birds over the face of the earth. Without this proviſion one favourite diſtrict would be crowded with inhabitants, while others would

would be deſtitute and forſaken. But the parent birds ſeem to maintain a jealous ſuperiority, and to oblige the young to ſeek for new abodes: and the rivalry of the males, in many kinds, prevents their crowding the one on the other. Whether the ſwallows and houſe-martins return in the ſame exact number annually is not eaſy to ſay, for reaſons given above: but it is apparent, as I have remarked before in my Monographies, that the numbers returning bear no manner of proportion to the numbers retiring.

LETTER XL.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, June 2, 1778.

THE ſtanding objection to botany has always been, that it is a purſuit that amuſes the fancy and exerciſes the memory, without improving the mind or advancing any real knowledge: and, where the ſcience is carried no farther than a mere ſyſtematic claſſification, the charge is but too true. But the botaniſt that is deſirous of wiping off this aſperſion ſhould be by no means content with a liſt of names; he ſhould ſtudy plants philoſophically, ſhould inveſtigate the laws of vegetation, ſhould examine the powers and virtues of efficacious herbs, ſhould promote their cultivation;

cultivation; and graft the gardener, the planter, and the huſbandman, on the phytologiſt. Not that ſyſtem is by any means to be thrown aſide; without ſyſtem the field of Nature would be a pathleſs wilderneſs; but ſyſtem ſhould be ſubſervient to, not the main object of, purſuit.

Vegetation is highly worthy of our attention; and in itſelf is of the utmoſt conſequence to mankind, and productive of many of the greateſt comforts and elegancies of life. To plants we owe timber, bread, beer, honey, wine, oil, linen, cotton, &c. what not only ſtrengthens our hearts, and exhilerates our ſpirits, but what ſecures us from inclemencies of weather and adorns our perſons. Man, in his true ſtate of nature, ſeems to be ſubſiſted by ſpontaneous vegetation: in middle climes, where graſſes prevail, he mixes ſome animal food with the produce of the field and garden: and it is towards the polar extremes only that, like his kindred bears and wolves, he gorges himſelf with fleſh alone, and is driven, to what hunger has never been known to compel the very beaſts, to prey on his own ſpecies. [u]

The productions of vegetation have had a vaſt influence on the commerce of nations, and have been the great promoters of navigation, as may be ſeen in the articles of ſugar, tea, tobacco, opium, ginſeng, betel, paper, &c. As every climate has it's peculiar produce, our natural wants bring on a mutual intercourſe; ſo that by means of trade each diſtant part is ſupplied with the growth of every latitude. But, without the knowledge of plants and their culture, we muſt have been content with our hips and haws, without enjoying the delicate fruits of *India* and the ſalutiferous drugs of *Peru*.

[u] See the late Voyages to the ſouth-ſeas.

Inſtead

Inſtead of examining the minute diſtinctions of every various ſpecies of each obſcure genus, the botaniſt ſhould endeavour to make himſelf acquainted with thoſe that are uſeful. You ſhall ſee a man readily aſcertain every herb of the field, yet hardly know wheat from barley, or at leaſt one ſort of wheat or barley from another.

But of all ſorts of vegetation the *graſſes* ſeem to be moſt neglected; neither the farmer nor the grazier ſeem to diſtinguiſh the annual from the perennial, the hardy from the tender, nor the ſucculent and nutritive from the dry and juiceleſs.

The ſtudy of graſſes would be of great conſequence to a northerly, and grazing kingdom. The botaniſt that could improve the ſward of the diſtrict where he lived would be an uſeful member of ſociety: to raiſe a thick turf on a naked ſoil would be worth volumes of ſyſtematic knowledge; and he would be the beſt commonwealth's man that could occaſion the growth of "*two blades* "*of graſs* where *one* alone was ſeen before."

I am, &c.

LETTER XLI.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, July 3, 1778.

In a diſtrict ſo diverſified with ſuch a variety of hill and dale, aſpects, and ſoils, it is no wonder that great choice of plants ſhould be found. Chalks, clays, ſands, ſheep-walks and downs, bogs, heaths, woodlands, and champaign fields, cannot but furniſh an ample *Flora*. The deep rocky lanes abound with *filices*, and the paſtures and moiſt woods with *fungi*. If in any branch of botany we may ſeem to be wanting, it muſt be in the large aquatic plants, which are not to be expected on a ſpot far removed from rivers, and lying up amidſt the hill country at the ſpring heads. To enumerate all the plants that have been diſcovered within our limits would be a needleſs work; but a ſhort liſt of the more rare, and the ſpots where they are to be found, may be neither unacceptable nor unentertaining:—

Helleborus fœtidus, ſtinking hellebore, bear's foot, or ſetterworth, all over the *High-wood* and *Coney-croft-hanger*: this continues a great branching plant the winter through, bloſſoming about *January*, and is very ornamental in ſhady walks and ſhrubberies. The good women give the leaves powdered to children troubled with worms; but it is a violent remedy, and ought to be adminiſtered with caution.

Helleborus

Helleborus viridis, green hellebore,—in the deep ſtony lane on the left hand juſt before the turning to *Norton-farm*, and at the top of *Middle Dorton* under the hedge: this plant dies down to the ground early in autumn, and ſprings again about *February*, flowering almoſt as ſoon as it appears above ground.

Vaccinium oxycoccos, creeping bilberries, or cranberries,—in the bogs of *Bin's-pond*;

Vaccinium myrtillus, whortle, or bleaberries,—on the dry hillocks of *Woolmer-foreſt*;

Droſera rotundifolia, round-leaved ſundew. } In the bogs
——*longifolia*, long-leaved ditto. } of *Bin's-pond*.

Comarum paluſtre, purple comarum, or marſh cinque foil,—in the bogs of *Bin's-pond*;

Hypericum androſæmum, Tutſan, St. John's Wort,—in the ſtony, hollow lanes;

Vinca minor, leſs periwinkle,—in *Selborne-hanger* and *Shrub-wood*;

Monotropa hypopithys, yellow monotropa, or birds' neſt,—in *Selborne-hanger* under the ſhady beeches, to whoſe roots it ſeems to be paraſitical—at the north-weſt end of the *Hanger*;

Chlora perfoliata, *Blackſtonia perfoliata*, *Hudſoni*, perfoliated yellow-wort,—on the banks in the *King's-field*;

Paris quadrifolia, herb Paris, true-love, or one-berry,—in the *Church-litten-coppice*;

Chryſoſplenium oppoſitifolium, oppoſite golden ſaxifrage,—in the dark and rocky hollow lanes;

Gentiana amarella, autumnal gentian, or fellwort,—on the *Zig-zag* and *Hanger*;

Lathræa ſquammaria, tooth-wort,—in the *Church-litten-coppice* under ſome hazels near the foot-bridge, in *Trimming*'s garden hedge, and on the dry wall oppoſite *Grange-yard*;

Dipſacus piloſus, ſmall teaſel,—in the *Short* and *Long Lith*.

Lathyrus ſylveſtris, narrow-leaved, or wild lathyrus,—in the buſhes at the foot of the *Short Lith*, near the path;

Ophrys ſpiralis, ladies traces,—in the *Long Lith*, and towards the ſouth-corner of the common;

Ophrys nidus avis, birds' neſt ophrys,—in the *Long Lith* under the ſhady beeches among the dead leaves; in *Great Dorton* among the buſhes, and on the *Hanger* plentifully;

Serapias latifolia, helleborine,—in the *High-wood* under the ſhady beeches;

Daphne laureola, ſpurge laurel,—in *Selborne-Hanger* and the *High-wood*;

Daphne mezereum, the mezereon,—in *Selborne-Hanger* among the ſhrubs at the ſouth-eaſt end above the cottages.

Lycoperdon tuber, truffles,—in the *Hanger* and *High-wood*.

Sambucus ebulus, dwarf elder, walwort, or danewort,—among the rubbiſh and ruined foundations of the *Priory*.

LETTER

LETTER XLII.

TO THE SAME.

" Omnibus animalibus reliquis certus et uniuſmodi, et in ſuo cuique genere " inceſſus: eſt aves ſolæ vario meatu feruntur, et in terrâ, et in æere."

PLIN. Hiſt. Nat. lib. x. cap. 38.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Aug. 7, 1778.

A GOOD ornithologiſt ſhould be able to diſtinguiſh birds by their air as well as by their colours and ſhape; on the ground as well as on the wing, and in the buſh as well as in the hand. For, though it muſt not be ſaid that every *ſpecies* of birds has a manner peculiar to itſelf, yet there is ſomewhat in moſt *genera* at leaſt, that at firſt ſight diſcriminates them, and enables a judicious obſerver to pronounce upon them with ſome certainty. Put a bird in motion

" — — Et verâ inceſſu patuit — — — —"

Thus *kites* and *buzzards* ſail round in circles with wings expanded and motionleſs; and it is from their gliding manner that the former are ſtill called in the north of *England gleads*, from the *Saxon* verb *glidan*, to glide. The *keſtrel*, or *wind-hover*, has a peculiar mode of hanging in the air in one place, his wings all the while being briſkly agitated. *Hen-harriers* fly low over heaths or fields of corn, and beat the ground regularly like a pointer or ſetting-dog. *Owls* move in a buoyant manner, as if lighter than the air; they ſeem to want ballaſt. There is a peculiarity belonging to *ravens* that muſt draw the attention even of the moſt incurious—they ſpend all their

their leiſure time in ſtriking and cuffing each other on the wing in a kind of playful ſkirmiſh; and, when they move from one place to another, frequently turn on their backs with a loud croak, and ſeem to be falling to the ground. When this odd geſture betides them, they are ſcratching themſelves with one foot, and thus loſe the center of gravity. *Rooks* ſometimes dive and tumble in a frolickſome manner; *crows* and *daws* ſwagger in their walk; *wood-peckers* fly *volatu undoſo*, opening and cloſing their wings at every ſtroke, and ſo are always riſing or falling in curves. All of this genus uſe their tails, which incline downward, as a ſupport while they run up trees. *Parrots*, like all other hooked-clawed birds, walk aukwardly, and make uſe of their bill as a third foot, climbing and deſcending with ridiculous caution. All the *gallinæ* parade and walk gracefully, and run nimbly; but fly with difficulty, with an impetuous whirring, and in a ſtraight line. *Magpies* and *jays* flutter with powerleſs wings, and make no diſpatch; *herons* ſeem incumbered with too much ſail for their light bodies; but theſe vaſt hollow wings are neceſſary in carrying burdens, ſuch as large fiſhes, and the like; *pigeons*, and particularly the ſort called *ſmiters*, have a way of claſhing their wings the one againſt the other over their backs with a loud ſnap; another variety called *tumblers* turn themſelves over in the air. Some birds have movements peculiar to the ſeaſon of love: thus *ring-doves*, though ſtrong and rapid at other times, yet in the ſpring hang about on the wing in a toying and playful manner; thus the *cock-ſnipe*, while breeding, forgetting his former flight, fans the air like the wind-hover; and the *green-finch* in particular exhibits ſuch languiſhing and faultering geſtures as to appear like a wounded and dying bird; the *king-fiſher* darts along like an arrow; *fern-owls*, or *goat-ſuckers*, glance in the duſk over the tops of trees like a meteor; *ſtarlings*

as

as it were ſwim along, while *miſſel-thruſhes* uſe a wild and deſultory flight; *ſwallows* ſweep over the ſurface of the ground and water, and diſtinguiſh themſelves by rapid turns and quick evolutions; *ſwifts* daſh round in circles; and the *bank-martin* moves with frequent vacillations like a butterfly. Moſt of the ſmall birds fly by jerks, riſing and falling as they advance. Moſt ſmall birds hop; but *wagtails* and *larks* walk, moving their legs alternately. *Skylarks* riſe and fall perpendicularly as they ſing; *woodlarks* hang poiſed in the air; and *titlarks* riſe and fall in large curves, ſinging in their deſcent. The *white-throat* uſes odd jerks and geſticulations over the tops of hedges and buſhes. All the *duck-kind* waddle; *divers* and *auks* walk as if fettered, and ſtand erect on their tails: theſe are the *compedes* of *Linnæus*. *Geeſe* and *cranes*, and moſt wild-fowls, move in figured flights, often changing their poſition. The ſecondary *remiges* of *Tringæ*, *wild-ducks*, and ſome others, are very long, and give their wings, when in motion, an hooked appearance. *Dabchicks*, *moor-hens*, and *coots*, fly erect, with their legs hanging down, and hardly make any diſpatch; the reaſon is plain, their wings are placed too forward out of the true center of gravity; as the legs of *auks* and *divers* are ſituated too backward.

LETTER

LETTER XLIII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, Sept. 9, 1778.

FROM the motion of birds, the tranſition is natural enough to their notes and language, of which I ſhall ſay ſomething. Not that I would pretend to underſtand their language like the *vizier*; who, by the recital of a converſation which paſſed between two owls, reclaimed a ſultan,[x] before delighting in conqueſt and deva-ſtation; but I would be thought only to mean that many of the winded tribes have various ſounds and voices adapted to expreſs their various paſſions, wants, and feelings; ſuch as anger, fear, love, hatred, hunger, and the like. All ſpecies are not equally eloquent; ſome are copious and fluent as it were in their utterance, while others are confined to a few important ſounds: no bird, like the fiſh kind, is quite mute, though ſome are rather ſilent. The language of birds is very ancient, and, like other ancient modes of ſpeech, very elliptical; little is ſaid, but much is meant and underſtood.

The notes of the eagle-kind are ſhrill and piercing; and about the ſeaſon of nidification much diverſified, as I have been often aſſured by a curious obſerver of Nature, who long reſided at *Gibraltar*, where eagles abound. The notes of our *hawks* much reſemble thoſe of the king of birds. *Owls* have very expreſſive notes; they hoot in a fine vocal ſound, much reſembling the *vox*

[x] See Spectator, Vol. VII, N°. 512.

humana

humana, and reducible by a pitch-pipe to a muſical key. This note ſeems to expreſs complacency and rivalry among the males: they uſe alſo a quick call and an horrible ſcream; and can ſnore and hiſs when they mean to menace. *Ravens*, beſides their loud croak, can exert a deep and ſolemn note that makes the woods to echo; the amorous ſound of a *crow* is ſtrange and ridiculous; *rooks*, in the breeding ſeaſon, attempt ſometimes in the gaiety of their hearts to ſing, but with no great ſucceſs; the *parrot*-kind have many modulations of voice, as appears by their aptitude to learn human ſounds; *doves* coo in an amorous and mournful manner, and are emblems of deſpairing lovers; the *woodpecker* ſets up a ſort of loud and hearty laugh; the *fern-owl*, or *goat-ſucker*, from the duſk till day-break, ſerenades his mate with the clattering of caſtanets. All the tuneful *paſſeres* expreſs their complacency by ſweet modulations, and a variety of melody. The *ſwallow*, as has been obſerved in a former letter, by a ſhrill alarm beſpeaks the attention of the other *hirundines*, and bids them be aware that the hawk is at hand. Aquatic and gregarious birds, eſpecially the nocturnal, that ſhift their quarters in the dark, are very noiſy and loquacious; as cranes, wild-geeſe, wild-ducks, and the like: their perpetual clamour prevents them from diſperſing and loſing their companions.

In ſo extenſive a ſubject, ſketches and outlines are as much as can be expected; for it would be endleſs to inſtance in all the infinite variety of the feathered nation. We ſhall therefore confine the remainder of this letter to the few domeſtic fowls of our yards, which are moſt known, and therefore beſt underſtood. And firſt the *peacock*, with his gorgeous train, demands our attention; but, like moſt of the gaudy birds, his notes are grating and ſhocking to the ear: the yelling of cats, and the braying of an aſs, are not

more diſguſtful. The voice of the *gooſe* is trumpet-like, and clanking; and once ſaved the Capitol at *Rome*, as grave hiſtorians aſſert: the hiſs alſo of the *gander* is formidable and full of menace, and "protective of his young." Among *ducks* the ſexual diſtinction of voice is remarkable; for, while the *quack* of the female is loud and ſonorous, the voice of the *drake* is inward and harſh, and feeble, and ſcarce diſcernible. The cock *turkey* ſtruts and gobbles to his miſtreſs in a moſt uncouth manner; he hath alſo a pert and petulant note when he attacks his adverſary. When a hen *turkey* leads forth her young brood ſhe keeps a watchful eye; and if a bird of prey appear, though ever ſo high in the air, the careful mother announces the enemy with a little inward moan, and watches him with a ſteady and attentive look; but, if he approach, her note becomes earneſt and alarming, and her outcries are redoubled.

No inhabitants of a yard ſeem poſſeſſed of ſuch a variety of expreſſion and ſo copious a language as common poultry. Take a chicken of four or five days old, and hold it up to a window where there are flies, and it will immediately ſeize it's prey, with little twitterings of complacency; but if you tender it a waſp or a bee, at once it's note becomes harſh, and expreſſive of diſapprobation and a ſenſe of danger. When a pullet is ready to lay ſhe intimates the event by a joyous and eaſy ſoft note. Of all the occurrences of their life that of *laying* ſeems to be the moſt important; for no ſooner has a hen diſburdened herſelf, than ſhe ruſhes forth with a clamorous kind of joy, which the cock and the reſt of his miſtreſſes immediately adopt. The tumult is not confined to the family concerned, but catches from yard to yard, and ſpreads to every homeſtead within hearing, till at laſt the whole village is in an uproar. As ſoon as a hen becomes a mother her

her new relation demands a new language; ſhe then runs clocking and ſcreaming about, and ſeems agitated as if poſſeſſed. The father of the flock has alſo a conſiderable vocabulary; if he finds food, he calls a favourite concubine to partake; and if a bird of prey paſſes over, with a warning voice he bids his family beware. The gallant *chanticleer* has, at command, his amorous phraſes and his terms of defiance. But the ſound by which he is beſt known is his *crowing:* by this he has been diſtinguiſhed in all ages as the countryman's clock or larum, as the watchman that proclaims the diviſions of the night. Thus the poet elegantly ſtyles him:

> " — — — the creſted cock, whoſe clarion ſounds
> " The ſilent hours."

A neighbouring gentleman one ſummer had loſt moſt of his chickens by a ſparrow-hawk, that came gliding down between a faggot pile and the end of his houſe to the place where the coops ſtood. The owner, inwardly vexed to ſee his flock thus diminiſhing, hung a ſetting net adroitly between the pile and the houſe, into which the caitif daſhed, and was entangled. Reſentment ſuggeſted the law of retaliation; he therefore clipped the hawk's wings, cut off his talons, and, fixing a cork on his bill, threw him down among the brood-hens. Imagination cannot paint the ſcene that enſued; the expreſſions that fear, rage, and revenge, inſpired, were new, or at leaſt ſuch as had been unnoticed before: the exaſperated matrons upbraided, they execrated, they inſulted, they triumphed. In a word, they never deſiſted from buffetting their adverſary till they had torn him in an hundred pieces.

LETTER XLIV.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE.

" — — — — monſtrent"
" — — — — —"
" Quid tantùm Oceano properent ſe tingere ſoles"
" Hyberni; vel quæ tardis mora noctibus obſtet."

GENTLEMEN who have outlets might contrive to make ornament ſubſervient to utility: a pleaſing eye-trap might alſo contribute to promote ſcience: an obeliſk in a garden or park might be both an embelliſhment and an *heliotrope*.

Any perſon that is curious, and enjoys the advantage of a good horizon, might, with little trouble, make two *heliotropes*; the one for the *winter*, the other for the *ſummer* ſolſtice: and theſe two erections might be conſtructed with very little expenſe; for two pieces of timber frame-work, about ten or twelve feet high, and four feet broad at the baſe, and cloſe lined with plank, would anſwer the purpoſe.

The erection for the former ſhould, if poſſible, be placed within ſight of ſome window in the common ſitting parlour; becauſe men, at that dead ſeaſon of the year, are uſually within doors at the cloſe of the day; while that for the latter might be fixed for any given ſpot in the garden or outlet: whence the owner might contemplate, in a fine ſummer's evening, the utmoſt extent that the ſun makes to the *northward* at the ſeaſon of the longeſt days.

days. Now nothing would be neceſſary but to place theſe two *objects* with ſo much exactneſs, that the *weſterly* limb of the ſun, at ſetting, might but juſt clear the *winter heliotrope* to the *weſt* of it on the *ſhorteſt* day; and that the *whole* diſc of the ſun, at the *longeſt* day, might exactly at ſetting alſo clear the *ſummer heliotrope* to the *north* of it.

By this ſimple expedient it would ſoon appear that there is no ſuch thing, ſtrictly ſpeaking, as a ſolſtice; for, from the *ſhorteſt* day, the owner would, every clear evening, ſee the diſc *advancing*, at it's ſetting, to the *weſtward* of the object; and, from the *longeſt* day, obſerve the ſun *retiring* backwards every evening at it's ſetting, towards the object *weſtward*, till, in a few nights, it would ſet quite behind it, and ſo by degrees to the *weſt* of it: for when the ſun comes near the ſummer ſolſtice, the whole diſc of it would at firſt ſet behind the object; after a time the *northern* limb would firſt appear, and ſo every night gradually more, till at length the whole diameter would ſet *northward* of it for about three nights; but on the middle night of the three, ſenſibly more remote than the former or following. When beginning it's receſs from the ſummer tropic, it would continue more and more to be hidden every night, till at length it would deſcend quite behind the object again; and ſo nightly more and more to the *weſtward*.

LETTER

LETTER XLV.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE.

" — — — Mugire videbis
" Sub pedibus terram, et deſcendere montibus ornos."

WHEN I was a boy I uſed to read, with aſtoniſhment and implicit aſſent, accounts in *Baker's Chronicle* of walking hills and travelling mountains. *John Philips*, in his *Cyder*, alludes to the credit that was given to ſuch ſtories with a delicate but quaint vein of humour peculiar to the author of the *Splendid Shilling*.

" I nor adviſe, nor reprehend the choice
" Of *Marcley Hill*; the apple no where finds
" A kinder mould; yet 'tis unſafe to truſt
" Deceitful ground: who knows but that once more
" This mount may journey, and his preſent ſite
" Forſaken, to thy neighbour's bounds transfer
" Thy goodly plants, affording matter ſtrange
" For law debates!"

But, when I came to conſider better, I began to ſuſpect that though our hills may never have journeyed far, yet that the ends of many of them have ſlipped and fallen away at diſtant periods, leaving the cliffs bare and abrupt. This ſeems to have been the caſe with *Nore* and *Whetham Hills*; and eſpecially with the ridge between *Harteley Park* and *Word-le-ham*, where the ground has ſlid into vaſt ſwellings and furrows; and lies ſtill in ſuch romantic confuſion

confuſion as cannot be accounted for from any other cauſe. A ſtrange event, that happened not long ſince, juſtifies our ſuſpicions; which, though it befell not within the limits of this pariſh, yet as it was within the hundred of *Selborne*, and as the circumſtances were ſingular, may fairly claim a place in a work of this nature.

The months of *January* and *February*, in the year 1774, were remarkable for great melting ſnows and vaſt gluts of rain; ſo that by the end of the latter month the land-ſprings, or *lavants*, began to prevail, and to be near as high as in the memorable winter of 1764. The beginning of *March* alſo went on in the ſame tenor; when, in the night between the 8th and 9th of that month, a conſiderable part of the great woody hanger at *Hawkley* was torn from it's place, and fell down, leaving a high free-ſtone cliff naked and bare, and reſembling the ſteep ſide of a chalk-pit. It appears that this huge fragment, being perhaps ſapped and undermined by waters, foundered, and was ingulfed, going down in a perpendicular direction; for a gate which ſtood in the field, on the top of the hill, after ſinking with it's poſts for thirty or forty feet, remained in ſo true and upright a poſition as to open and ſhut with great exactneſs, juſt as in it's firſt ſituation. Several oaks alſo are ſtill ſtanding, and in a ſtate of vegetation, after taking the ſame deſperate leap. That great part of this prodigious maſs was abſorbed in ſome gulf below, is plain alſo from the inclining ground at the bottom of the hill, which is free and unincumbered; but would have been buried in heaps of rubbiſh, had the fragment parted and fallen forward. About an hundred yards from the foot of this hanging coppice ſtood a cottage by the ſide of a lane; and two hundred yards lower, on the other ſide of the lane, was a farm-houſe, in which lived a labourer and his

his family; and, juſt by, a ſtout new barn. The cottage was inhabited by an old woman and her ſon, and his wife. Theſe people in the evening, which was very dark and tempeſtuous, obſerved that the brick floors of their kitchens began to heave and part; and that the walls ſeemed to open, and the roofs to crack: but they all agree that no tremor of the ground, indicating an earthquake, was ever felt; only that the wind continued to make a moſt tremendous roaring in the woods and hangers. The miſerable inhabitants, not daring to go to bed, remained in the utmoſt ſolicitude and confuſion, expecting every moment to be buried under the ruins of their ſhattered edifices. When day-light came they were at leiſure to contemplate the devaſtations of the night: they then found that a deep rift, or chaſm, had opened under their houſes, and torn them, as it were, in two; and that one end of the barn had ſuffered in a ſimilar manner; that a pond near the cottage had undergone a ſtrange reverſe, becoming deep at the ſhallow end, and ſo *vice verſa*; that many large oaks were removed out of their perpendicular, ſome thrown down, and ſome fallen into the heads of neighbouring trees; and that a gate was thruſt forward, with it's hedge, full ſix feet, ſo as to require a new track to be made to it. From the foot of the cliff the general courſe of the ground, which is paſture, inclines in a moderate deſcent for half a mile, and is interſperſed with ſome hillocks, which were rifted, in every direction, as well towards the great woody hanger, as from it. In the firſt paſture the deep clefts began; and running acroſs the lane, and under the buildings, made ſuch vaſt ſhelves that the road was impaſſable for ſome time; and ſo over to an arable field on the other ſide, which was ſtrangely torn and diſordered. The ſecond paſture field, being more ſoft and ſpringy, was protruded forward without many fiſſures in the turf, which

was

was raiſed in long ridges reſembling graves, lying at right angles to the motion. At the bottom of this encloſure the ſoil and turf roſe many feet againſt the bodies of ſome oaks that obſtructed their farther courſe and terminated this awful commotion.

The perpendicular height of the precipice, in general, is twenty-three yards; the length of the lapſe, or ſlip, as ſeen from the fields below, one hundred and eighty-one; and a partial fall, concealed in the coppice, extends ſeventy yards more: ſo that the total length of this fragment that fell was two hundred and fifty-one yards. About fifty acres of land ſuffered from this violent convulſion; two houſes were entirely deſtroyed; one end of a new barn was left in ruins, the walls being cracked through the very ſtones that compoſed them; a hanging coppice was changed to a naked rock; and ſome graſs grounds and an arable field ſo broken and rifted by the chaſms as to be rendered, for a time, neither fit for the plough or ſafe for paſturage, till conſiderable labour and expenſe had been beſtowed in levelling the ſurface and filling in the gaping fiſſures.

LETTER XLVI.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE.

"— — — resonant arbusta — — — —"

THERE is a steep abrupt pasture field interspersed with furze close to the back of this village, well known by the name of the *Short Lithe*, consisting of a rocky dry soil, and inclining to the afternoon sun. This spot abounds with the *gryllus campestris*, or *field-cricket*; which, though frequent in these parts, is by no means a common insect in many other counties.

As their cheerful summer cry cannot but draw the attention of a naturalist, I have often gone down to examine the œconomy of these *grylli*, and study their mode of life: but they are so shy and cautious that it is no easy matter to get a sight of them; for, feeling a person's footsteps as he advances, they stop short in the midst of their song, and retire backward nimbly into their burrows, where they lurk till all suspicion of danger is over.

At first we attempted to dig them out with a spade, but without any great success; for either we could not get to the bottom of the hole, which often terminated under a great stone; or else, in breaking up the ground, we inadvertently squeezed the poor insect to death. Out of one so bruised we took a multitude of eggs, which

which were long and narrow, of a yellow colour, and covered with a very tough ſkin. By this accident we learned to diſtinguiſh the male from the female; the former of which is ſhining black, with a golden ſtripe acroſs his ſhoulders; the latter is more duſky, more capacious about the abdomen, and carries a long ſword-ſhaped weapon at her tail, which probably is the inſtrument with which ſhe depoſits her eggs in crannies and ſafe receptacles.

Where violent methods will not avail, more gentle means will often ſucceed; and ſo it proved in the preſent caſe; for, though a ſpade be too boiſterous and rough an implement, a pliant ſtalk of graſs, gently inſinuated into the caverns, will probe their windings to the bottom, and quickly bring out the inhabitant; and thus the humane inquirer may gratify his curioſity without injuring the object of it. It is remarkable that, though theſe inſects are furniſhed with long legs behind, and brawny thighs for leaping, like graſshoppers; yet when driven from their holes they ſhew no activity, but crawl along in a ſhiftleſs manner, ſo as eaſily to be taken: and again, though provided with a curious apparatus of wings, yet they never exert them when there ſeems to be the greateſt occaſion. The males only make that ſhrilling noiſe perhaps out of rivalry and emulation, as is the caſe with many animals which exert ſome ſprightly note during their breeding time: it is raiſed by a briſk friction of one wing againſt the other. They are ſolitary beings, living ſingly male or female, each as it may happen; but there muſt be a time when the ſexes have ſome intercourſe, and then the wings may be uſeful perhaps during the hours of night. When the males meet they will fight fiercely, as I found by ſome which I put into the crevices of a dry ſtone wall, where I ſhould have been glad to have made them ſettle. For though they ſeemed diſtreſſed by being taken out of their know-

ledge, yet the firſt that got poſſeſſion of the chinks would ſeize on any that were obtruded upon them with a vaſt row of ſerrated fangs. With their ſtrong jaws, toothed like the ſhears of a lobſter's claws, they perforate and round their curious regular cells, having no fore-claws to dig, like the mole-cricket. When taken in hand I could not but wonder that they never offered to defend themſelves, though armed with ſuch formidable weapons. Of ſuch herbs as grow before the mouths of their burrows they eat indiſcriminately; and on a little platform, which they make juſt by, they drop their dung; and never, in the day time, ſeem to ſtir more than two or three inches from home. Sitting in the entrance of their caverns they chirp all night as well as day from the middle of the month of *May* to the middle of *July*; and in hot weather, when they are moſt vigorous, they make the hills echo; and, in the ſtiller hours of darkneſs, may be heard to a conſiderable diſtance. In the beginning of the ſeaſon their notes are more faint and inward; but become louder as the ſummer advances, and ſo die away again by degrees.

Sounds do not always give us pleaſure according to their ſweetneſs and melody; nor do harſh ſounds always diſpleaſe. We are more apt to be captivated or diſguſted with the aſſociations which they promote, than with the notes themſelves. Thus the ſhrilling of the *field-cricket*, though ſharp and ſtridulous, yet marvelloufly delights ſome hearers, filling their minds with a train of ſummer ideas of every thing that is rural, verdurous, and joyous.

About the tenth of *March* the crickets appear at the mouths of their cells, which they then open and bore, and ſhape very elegantly. All that ever I have ſeen at that ſeaſon were in their pupa ſtate, and had only the rudiments of wings, lying under a ſkin or coat,

coat, which muſt be caſt before the inſect can arrive at it's perfect ſtate [y]; from whence I ſhould ſuppoſe that the old ones of laſt year do not always ſurvive the winter. In *Auguſt* their holes begin to be obliterated, and the inſects are ſeen no more till ſpring.

Not many ſummers ago I endeavoured to tranſplant a colony to the terrace in my garden, by boring deep holes in the ſloping turf. The new inhabitants ſtayed ſome time, and fed and ſung; but wandered away by degrees, and were heard at a farther diſtance every morning; ſo that it appears that on this emergency they made uſe of their wings in attempting to return to the ſpot from which they were taken.

One of theſe crickets, when confined in a paper cage and ſet in the ſun, and ſupplied with plants moiſtened with water, will feed and thrive, and become ſo merry and loud as to be irkſome in the ſame room where a perſon is ſitting: if the plants are not wetted it will die.

[y] We have obſerved that they caſt theſe ſkins in *April*, which are then ſeen lying at the mouths of their holes.

LETTER

LETTER XLVII.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE,

" Far from all resort of mirth
" Save the cricket on the hearth." MILTON'S *Il Penseroso*.

WHILE many other insects must be sought after in fields and woods, and waters, the *gryllus domesticus*, or *house-cricket*, resides altogether within our dwellings, intruding itself upon our notice whether we will or no. This species delights in new-built houses, being, like the spider, pleased with the moisture of the walls; and besides, the softness of the mortar enables them to burrow and mine between the joints of the bricks or stones, and to open communications from one room to another. They are particularly fond of kitchens and bakers' ovens, on account of their perpetual warmth.

Tender insects that live abroad either enjoy only the short period of one summer, or else doze away the cold uncomfortable months in profound slumbers; but these, residing as it were in a torrid zone, are always alert and merry: a good *Christmas* fire is to them like the heats of the dog-days. Though they are frequently heard by day, yet is their natural time of motion only in the night. As soon as it grows dusk, the chirping increases, and they come running forth, and are from the size of a flea to that of their full stature. As one should suppose, from the burning

burning atmoſphere which they inhabit, they are a thirſty race, and ſhew a great propenſity for liquids, being found frequently drowned in pans of water, milk, broth, or the like. Whatever is moiſt they affect; and therefore often gnaw holes in wet woollen ſtockings and aprons that are hung to the fire: they are the houſewife's barometer, foretelling her when it will rain; and are prognoſtic ſometimes, ſhe thinks, of ill or good luck; of the death of a near relation, or the approach of an abſent lover. By being the conſtant companions of her ſolitary hours they naturally become the objects of her ſuperſtition. Theſe crickets are not only very thirſty, but very voracious; for they will eat the ſcummings of pots, and yeaſt, ſalt, and crumbs of bread; and any kitchen offal or ſweepings. In the ſummer we have obſerved them to fly, when it became duſk, out of the windows, and over the neighbouring roofs. This feat of activity accounts for the ſudden manner in which they often leave their haunts, as it does for the method by which they come to houſes where they were not known before. It is remarkable, that many ſorts of inſects ſeem never to uſe their wings but when they have a mind to ſhift their quarters and ſettle new colonies. When in the air they move "*volatu undoſo*," in waves or curves, like *wood-peckers*, opening and ſhutting their wings at every ſtroke, and ſo are always riſing or ſinking.

When they increaſe to a great degree, as they did once in the houſe where I am now writing, they become noiſome peſts, flying into the candles, and daſhing into people's faces; but may be blaſted and deſtroyed by gunpowder diſcharged into their crevices and crannies. In families, at ſuch times, they are, like Pharaoh's plague of frogs,—"in their bedchambers, and upon "their beds, and in their ovens, and in their kneading-troughs."

" troughs[z]." Their ſhrilling noiſe is occaſioned by a briſk attrition of their wings. Cats catch hearth-crickets, and, playing with them as they do with mice, devour them. Crickets may be deſtroyed, like waſps, by phials half filled with beer, or any liquid, and ſet in their haunts; for, being always eager to drink, they will crowd in till the bottles are full.

LETTER XLVIII.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE.

How diverſified are the modes of life not only of incongruous but even of congenerous animals; and yet their ſpecific diſtinctions are not more various than their propenſities. Thus, while the *field-cricket* delights in ſunny dry banks, and the *houſe-cricket* rejoices amidſt the glowing heat of the kitchen hearth or oven, the *gryllus gryllo talpa* (the *mole-cricket*), haunts moiſt meadows, and frequents the ſides of ponds and banks of ſtreams, performing all it's functions in a ſwampy wet ſoil. With a pair of fore-feet, curiouſly adapted to the purpoſe, it burrows and works under ground like the mole, raiſing a ridge as it proceeds, but ſeldom throwing up hillocks.

[z] Exod. viii. 3.

As

As *mole-crickets* often infeſt gardens by the ſides of canals, they are unwelcome gueſts to the gardener, raiſing up ridges in their ſubterraneous progreſs, and rendering the walks unſightly. If they take to the kitchen quarters, they occaſion great damage among the plants and roots, by deſtroying whole beds of cabbages, young legumes, and flowers. When dug out they ſeem very ſlow and helpleſs, and make no uſe of their wings by day; but at night they come abroad, and make long excurſions, as I have been convinced by finding ſtragglers, in a morning, in improbable places. In fine weather, about the middle of *April*, and juſt at the cloſe of day, they begin to ſolace themſelves with a low, dull, jarring note, continued for a long time without interruption, and not unlike the chattering of the fern-owl, or goat-ſucker, but more inward.

About the beginning of *May* they lay their eggs, as I was once an eye-witneſs: for a gardener at an houſe, where I was on a viſit, happening to be mowing, on the 6th of that month, by the ſide of a canal, his ſcythe ſtruck too deep, pared off a large piece of turf, and laid open to view a curious ſcene of domeſtic œconomy:

" — — — — ingentem lato dedit ore feneſtram:
" Apparet domus intus, et atria longa pateſcunt:
" Apparent — — — penetralia."

There were many caverns and winding paſſages leading to a kind of chamber, neatly ſmoothed and rounded, and about the ſize of a moderate ſnuff-box. Within this ſecret nurſery were depoſited near an hundred eggs of a dirty yellow colour, and enveloped in a tough ſkin, but too lately excluded to contain any rudiments of young, being full of a viſcous ſubſtance. The eggs

lay but ſhallow, and within the influence of the ſun, juſt under a little heap of freſh-mowed mould, like that which is raiſed by ants.

When *mole-crickets* fly they move "*curſu undoſo*," riſing and falling in curves, like the other ſpecies mentioned before. In different parts of this kingdom people call them *fen-crickets*, *churr-worms*, and *eve-churrs*, all very appoſite names.

Anatomiſts, who have examined the inteſtines of theſe inſects, aſtoniſh me with their accounts; for they ſay that, from the ſtructure, poſition, and number of their ſtomachs, or maws, there ſeems to be good reaſon to ſuppoſe that this and the two former ſpecies *ruminate* or *chew* the *cud* like many quadrupeds!

LETTER XLIX.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE, May 7, 1779.

IT is now more than forty years that I have paid ſome attention to the ornithology of this diſtrict, without being able to exhauſt the ſubject: new occurrences ſtill ariſe as long as any inquiries are kept alive.

In the laſt week of laſt month five of thoſe moſt rare birds, too uncommon to have obtained an *Engliſh* name, but known to naturaliſts

CHARADRIUS, Himantopus.

Published, Nov.1 1791 by the Author, & by B. White, &c.

CHARADRIUS, Himantopus.

Published Nov.r 1.1788, at the Ark Street, by B. White & Son.

raliſts by the terms of *himantopus*, or *loripes*, and *charadrius himantopus*, were ſhot upon the verge of *Frinſham-pond*, a large lake belonging to the Biſhop of *Winchester*, and lying between *Woolmer-foreſt*, and the town of *Farnham*, in the county of *Surrey*. The pond keeper ſays there were three brace in the flock; but that, after he had ſatisfied his curioſity, he ſuffered the ſixth to remain unmoleſted. One of theſe ſpecimens I procured, and found the length of the legs to be ſo extraordinary, that, at firſt ſight, one might have ſuppoſed the ſhanks had been faſtened on to impoſe on the credulity of the beholder: they were legs in *caricatura*; and had we ſeen ſuch proportions on a *Chineſe* or *Japan* ſcreen we ſhould have made large allowances for the fancy of the draughtſman. Theſe birds are of the *plover* family, and might with propriety be called the *ſtilt plovers*. *Briſſon*, under that idea, gives them the appoſite name of *l'echaſſe*. My ſpecimen, when drawn and ſtuffed with pepper, weighed only four ounces and a quarter, though the *naked* part of the thigh meaſured three inches and an half, and the legs four inches and an half. Hence we may ſafely aſſert that theſe birds exhibit, weight for inches, incomparably the greateſt length of legs of any known bird. The *flamingo*, for inſtance, is one of the moſt long legged birds, and yet it bears no manner of proportion to the *himantopus*; for a cock *flamingo* weighs, at an average, about four pounds avoirdupois; and his legs and thighs meaſure uſually about twenty inches. But four pounds are fifteen times and a fraction more than four ounces, and one quarter; and if four ounces and a quarter have eight inches of legs, four pounds muſt have one hundred and twenty inches and a fraction of legs; *viz.* ſomewhat more than ten feet; ſuch a monſtrous proportion as the world never ſaw! If you ſhould try the experiment in ſtill larger birds the diſparity would ſtill increaſe. It muſt be matter of great

curiosity to see the *stilt plover* move; to observe how it can wield such a length of lever with such feeble muscles as the thighs seem to be furnished with. At best one should expect it to be but a bad walker: but what adds to the wonder is, that it has no back toe. Now without that steady prop to support it's steps it must be liable, in speculation, to perpetual vacillations, and seldom able to preserve the true center of gravity.

The old name of *himantopus* is taken from *Pliny*; and, by an aukward metaphor, implies that the legs are as slender and pliant as if cut out of a *thong* of leather. Neither *Willughby* nor *Ray*, in all their curious researches, either at home or abroad, ever saw this bird. Mr. *Pennant* never met with it in all *Great-Britain*, but observed it often in the cabinets of the curious at *Paris*. *Hasselquist* says that it migrates to *Egypt* in the autumn: and a most accurate observer of Nature has assured me that he has found it on the banks of the streams in *Andalusia*.

Our writers record it to have been found only twice in *Great-Britain*. From all these relations it plainly appears that these long legged *plovers* are birds of *South Europe*, and rarely visit our island; and when they do are wanderers and straggglers, and impelled to make so distant and northern an excursion from motives or accidents for which we are not able to account. One thing may fairly be deduced, that these birds come over to us from the continent, since nobody can suppose that a species not noticed once in an age, and of such a remarkable make, can constantly breed unobserved in this kingdom.

LETTER

LETTER L.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, SELBORNE, April 21, 1780.

THE old *Suſſex* tortoiſe, that I have mentioned to you ſo often, is become my property. I dug it out of it's winter dormitory in *March* laſt, when it was enough awakened to expreſs it's reſentments by hiſſing; and, packing it in a box with earth, carried it eighty miles in poſt-chaiſes. The rattle and hurry of the journey ſo perfectly rouſed it that, when I turned it out on a border, it walked twice down to the bottom of my garden; however, in the evening, the weather being cold, it buried itſelf in the looſe mould, and continues ſtill concealed.

As it will be under my eye, I ſhall now have an opportunity of enlarging my obſervations on it's mode of life, and propenſities; and perceive already that, towards the time of coming forth, it opens a breathing place in the ground near it's head, requiring, I conclude, a freer reſpiration as it becomes more alive. This creature not only goes under the earth from the middle of *November* to the middle of *April*, but ſleeps great part of the ſummer; for it goes to bed in the longeſt days at four in the afternoon, and often does not ſtir in the morning till late. Beſides, it retires to reſt for every ſhower; and does not move at all in wet days.

When

When one reflects on the ſtate of this ſtrange being, it is a matter of wonder to find that Providence ſhould beſtow ſuch a profuſion of days, ſuch a ſeeming waſte of longevity, on a reptile that appears to reliſh it ſo little as to ſquander more than two thirds of it's exiſtence in a joyleſs ſtupor, and be loſt to all ſenſation for months together in the profoundeſt of ſlumbers.

While I was writing this letter, a moiſt and warm afternoon, with the thermometer at 50, brought forth troops of *ſhell-ſnails*; and, at the ſame juncture, the *tortoiſe* heaved up the mould and put out it's head; and the next morning came forth, as it were raiſed from the dead; and walked about till four in the afternoon. This was a curious coincidence! a very amuſing occurrence! to ſee ſuch a ſimilarity of feelings between the two φερεοικοι! for ſo the *Greeks* called both the *ſhell-ſnail* and the *tortoiſe*.

Summer birds are, this cold and backward ſpring, unuſually late: I have ſeen but one ſwallow yet. This conformity with the weather convinces me more and more that they ſleep in the winter.

LETTER

LETTER LI.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE, Sept. 3, 1781.

I HAVE now read your miſcellanies through with much care and ſatisfaction; and am to return you my beſt thanks for the honourable mention made in them of me as a naturaliſt, which I wiſh I may deſerve.

In ſome former letters I expreſſed my ſuſpicions that many of the houſe-martins do not depart in the winter far from this village. I therefore determined to make ſome ſearch about the ſouth-eaſt end of the hill, where I imagined they might ſlumber out the uncomfortable months of winter. But ſuppoſing that the examination would be made to the beſt advantage in the ſpring, and obſerving that no martins had appeared by the 11th of *April* laſt; on that day I employed ſome men to explore the ſhrubs and cavities of the ſuſpected ſpot. The perſons took pains, but without any ſucceſs; however, a remarkable incident occurred in the midſt of our purſuit—while the labourers were at work a houſe-martin, the firſt that had been ſeen this year, came down the village in the ſight of ſeveral people, and went at once into a neſt, where it ſtayed a ſhort time, and then flew over the houſes; for ſome days after no martins were obſerved, not till the 16th of *April*, and then only a pair. Martins in general were remarkably late this year.

LETTER

LETTER LII.

TO THE SAME.

SELBORNE, Sept. 9, 1781.

I HAVE juſt met with a circumſtance reſpecting ſwifts, which furniſhes an exception to the whole tenor of my obſervations ever ſince I have beſtowed any attention on that ſpecies of hirundines. Our ſwifts, in general, withdrew this year about the firſt day of *Auguſt*, all ſave one pair, which in two or three days was reduced to a ſingle bird. The perſeverance of this individual made me ſuſpect that the ſtrongeſt of motives, that of an attach- to her young, could alone occaſion ſo late a ſtay. I watched therefore till the twenty-fourth of *Auguſt*, and then diſcovered that, under the eaves of the church, ſhe attended upon two young, which were fledged, and now put out their white chins from a crevice. Theſe remained till the twenty-ſeventh, looking more alert every day, and ſeeming to long to be on the wing. After this day they were miſſing at once; nor could I ever obſerve them with their dam courſing round the church in the act of learning to fly, as the firſt broods evidently do. On the thirty-firſt I cauſed the eaves to be ſearched, but we found in the neſt only two callow, dead, ſtinking ſwifts, on which a ſecond neſt had been formed. This double neſt was full of the black ſhining caſes of the *hippoboſcæ hirundinis*.

The following remarks on this unuſual incident are obvious. The firſt is, that though it may be diſagreeable to ſwifts to remain beyond

beyond the beginning of *Auguſt*, yet that they can ſubſiſt longer is undeniable. The ſecond is, that this uncommon event, as it was owing to the loſs of the firſt brood, ſo it corroborates my former remark, that ſwifts breed regularly but once; ſince, was the contrary the caſe, the occurrence above could neither be new nor rare.

P. S. One ſwift was ſeen at *Lyndon*, in the county of *Rutland*, in 1782, ſo late as the third of *September*.

LETTER LIII.

TO THE SAME.

As I have ſometimes known you make inquiries about ſeveral kinds of inſects, I ſhall here ſend you an account of one ſort which I little expected to have found in this kingdom. I had often obſerved that one particular part of a vine growing on the walls of my houſe was covered in the autumn with a black duſt-like appearance, on which the flies fed eagerly; and that the ſhoots and leaves thus affected did not thrive; nor did the fruit ripen. To this ſubſtance I applied my glaſſes; but could not diſcover that it had any thing to do with animal life, as I at firſt expected: but, upon a cloſer examination behind the larger

boughs, we were ſurpriſed to find that they were coated over with huſky ſhells, from whoſe ſides proceeded a cotton-like ſubſtance, ſurrounding a multitude of eggs. This curious and uncommon production put me upon recollecting what I have heard and read concerning the *coccus vitis viniferæ* of *Linnæus*, which, in the ſouth of *Europe*, infeſts many vines, and is an horrid and loathſome peſt. As ſoon as I had turned to the accounts given of this inſect, I ſaw at once that it ſwarmed on my vine; and did not appear to have been at all checked by the preceding winter, which had been uncommonly ſevere.

Not being then at all aware that it had any thing to do with *England*, I was much inclined to think that it came from *Gibraltar* among the many boxes and packages of plants and birds which I had formerly received from thence; and eſpecially as the vine infeſted grew immediately under my ſtudy-window, where I uſually kept my ſpecimens. True it is that I had received nothing from thence for ſome years: but as inſects, we know, are conveyed from one country to another in a very unexpected manner, and have a wonderful power of maintaining their exiſtence till they fall into a *nidus* proper for their ſupport and increaſe, I cannot but ſuſpect ſtill that theſe *cocci* came to me originally from *Andaluſia*. Yet, all the while, candour obliges me to confeſs that Mr. *Lightfoot* has written me word that he once, and but once, ſaw theſe inſects on a vine at *Weymouth* in *Dorſetſhire*; which, it is here to be obſerved, is a ſea-port town to which the *coccus* might be conveyed by ſhipping.

As many of my readers may poſſibly never have heard of this ſtrange and unuſual inſect, I ſhall here tranſcribe a paſſage from a natural hiſtory of *Gibraltar*, written by the Reverend *John White*, late vicar of *Blackburn* in *Lancaſhire*, but not yet publiſhed:—

" In

" In the year 1770 a vine, which grew on the eaſt-ſide of my " houſe, and which had produced the fineſt crops of grapes for " years paſt, was ſuddenly overſpread on all the woody branches " with large lumps of a white fibrous ſubſtance reſembling ſpiders " webs, or rather raw cotton. It was of a very clammy quality, " ſticking faſt to every thing that touched it, and capable of being " ſpun into long threads. At firſt I ſuſpected it to be the product " of ſpiders, but could find none. Nothing was to be ſeen con- " nected with it but many *brown oval huſky ſhells*, which by no " means looked like inſects, but rather reſembled bits of the dry " bark of the vine. The tree had a plentiful crop of grapes ſet, " when this peſt appeared upon it; but the fruit was manifeſtly " injured by this foul incumbrance. It remained all the ſummer, " ſtill increaſing, and loaded the woody and bearing branches to " a vaſt degree. I often pulled off great quantities by handfuls; " but it was ſo ſlimy and tenacious that it could by no means be " cleared. The grapes never filled to their natural perfection, " but turned watery and vapid. Upon peruſing the works after- " wards of M. de *Reaumur*, I found this matter perfectly deſcribed " and accounted for. Thoſe huſky ſhells, which I had obſerved, " were no other than the *female coccus*, from whoſe ſides this " cotton-like ſubſtance exſudes, and ſerves as a covering and " ſecurity for their eggs."

To this account I think proper to add, that, though the female *cocci* are ſtationary, and ſeldom remove from the place to which they ſtick, yet the male is a winged inſect; and that the black duſt which I ſaw was undoubtedly the excrement of the females, which is eaten by ants as well as flies. Though the utmoſt ſeverity of our winter did not deſtroy theſe inſects, yet the attention of the gardener in a ſummer or two has entirely relieved my vine from this filthy annoyance.

As we have remarked above that infects are often conveyed from one country to another in a very unaccountable manner, I ſhall here mention an emigration of ſmall *aphides*, which was obſerved in the village of *Selborne* no longer ago than *Auguſt* the 1ſt, 1785.

At about three o'clock in the afternoon of that day, which was very hot, the people of this village were ſurpriſed by a ſhower of *aphides*, or *ſmother-flies*, which fell in theſe parts. Thoſe that were walking in the ſtreet at that juncture found themſelves covered with theſe inſects, which ſettled alſo on the hedges and gardens, blackening all the vegetables where they alighted. My annuals were diſcoloured with them, and the ſtalks of a bed of onions were quite coated over for ſix days after. Theſe armies were then, no doubt, in a ſtate of emigration, and ſhifting their quarters; and might have come, as far as we know, from the great hop-plantations of *Kent* or *Suſſex*, the wind being all that day in the eaſterly quarter. They were obſerved at the ſame time in great clouds about *Farnham*, and all along the vale from *Farnham* to *Alton*[a].

[a] For various methods by which ſeveral inſects ſhift their quarters, ſee *Derham's* Phyſico-Theology.

LETTER

LETTER LIV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR,

WHEN I happen to viſit a family where *gold* and *ſilver fiſhes* are kept in a glaſs bowl, I am always pleaſed with the occurrence, becauſe it offers me an opportunity of obſerving the actions and propenſities of thoſe beings with whom we can be little acquainted in their natural ſtate. Not long ſince I ſpent a fortnight at the houſe of a friend where there was ſuch a *vivary*, to which I paid no ſmall attention, taking every occaſion to remark what paſſed within it's narrow limits. It was here that I firſt obſerved the manner in which fiſhes die. As ſoon as the creature ſickens, the head ſinks lower and lower, and it ſtands as it were on it's head; till, getting weaker, and loſing all poiſe, the tail turns over, and at laſt it floats on the ſurface of the water with it's belly uppermoſt. The reaſon why fiſhes, when dead, ſwim in that manner is very obvious; becauſe, when the body is no longer balanced by the fins of the belly, the broad muſcular back preponderates by it's own gravity, and turns the belly uppermoſt, as lighter from it's being a cavity, and becauſe it contains the ſwimming-bladders, which contribute to render it buoyant. Some that delight in *gold* and *ſilver fiſhes* have adopted a notion that they need no aliment. True it is that they will ſubſiſt for a long time without any apparent food but what they can collect from pure water frequently changed; yet they muſt draw ſome ſupport from animalcula, and other nouriſhment

nouriſhment ſupplied by the water; becauſe, though they ſeem to eat nothing, yet the conſequences of eating often drop from them. That they are beſt pleaſed with ſuch *jejune* diet may eaſily be confuted, ſince if you toſs them crumbs they will ſeize them with great readineſs, not to ſay greedineſs: however, bread ſhould be given ſparingly, leſt, turning ſour, it corrupt the water. They will alſo feed on the water-plant called *lemna (duck's meat)*, and alſo on ſmall fry.

When they want to move a little they gently protrude themſelves with their *pinnæ pectorales*; but it is with their ſtrong muſcular tails only that they and all fiſhes ſhoot along with ſuch inconceivable rapidity. It has been ſaid that the eyes of fiſhes are immoveable: but theſe apparently turn them forward or backward in their ſockets as their occaſions require. They take little notice of a lighted candle, though applied cloſe to their heads, but flounce and ſeem much frightened by a ſudden ſtroke of the hand againſt the ſupport whereon the bowl is hung; eſpecially when they have been motionleſs, and are perhaps aſleep. As fiſhes have no eyelids, it is not eaſy to diſcern when they are ſleeping or not, becauſe their eyes are always open.

Nothing can be more amuſing than a glaſs bowl containing ſuch fiſhes: the double refractions of the glaſs and water repreſent them, when moving, in a ſhifting and changeable variety of dimenſions, ſhades, and colours; while the two mediums, aſſiſted by the concavo-convex ſhape of the veſſel, magnify and diſtort them vaſtly; not to mention that the introduction of another element and it's inhabitants into our parlours engages the fancy in a very agreeable manner.

Gold

Gold and *ſilver fiſhes*, though originally natives of *China* and *Japan*, yet are become ſo well reconciled to our climate as to thrive and multiply very faſt in our ponds and ſtews. *Linnæus* ranks this ſpecies of fiſh under the genus of *cyprinus*, or *carp*, and calls it *cyprinus auratus*.

Some people exhibit this ſort of fiſh in a very fanciful way; for they cauſe a glaſs bowl to be blown with a large hollow ſpace within, that does not communicate with it. In this cavity they put a bird occaſionally; ſo that you may ſee a goldfinch or a linnet hopping as it were in the midſt of the water, and the fiſhes ſwimming in a circle round it. The ſimple exhibition of the fiſhes is agreeable and pleaſant; but in ſo complicated a way becomes whimſical and unnatural, and liable to the objection due to him,

"Qui variare cupit rem prodigialitèr unam."

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER LV.

TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR, October 10, 1781.

I THINK I have obſerved before that much the moſt conſiderable part of the *houſe-martins* withdraw from hence about the firſt week in *October*; but that ſome, the latter broods I am now convinced, linger on till towards the middle of that month: and that at times, once perhaps in two or three years, a flight, for one day only, has ſhown itſelf in the firſt week in *November*.

Having taken notice, in *October* 1780, that the laſt flight was numerous, amounting perhaps to one hundred and fifty; and that the ſeaſon was ſoft and ſtill; I was reſolved to pay uncommon attention to theſe late birds; to find, if poſſible, where they rooſted, and to determine the preciſe time of their retreat. The mode of life of theſe latter *hirundines* is very favourable to ſuch a deſign; for they ſpend the whole day in the ſheltered diſtrict, between me and the *Hanger*, ſailing about in a placid, eaſy manner, and feaſting on thoſe inſects which love to haunt a ſpot ſo ſecure from ruffling winds. As my principal object was to diſcover the place of their rooſting, I took care to wait on them before they retired to reſt, and was much pleaſed to find that, for ſeveral evenings together, juſt at a quarter paſt five in the afternoon, they all ſcudded away in great haſte towards the ſouth-eaſt, and darted down among the low ſhrubs above the cottages at the end of the hill. This ſpot in many reſpects ſeems to be well calculated for their winter reſidence: for in many parts it is as

ſteep

ſteep as the roof of any houſe, and therefore ſecure from the annoyances of water; and it is moreover clothed with beechen ſhrubs, which, being ſtunted and bitten by ſheep, make the thickeſt covert imaginable; and are ſo entangled as to be impervious to the ſmalleſt ſpaniel: beſides, it is the nature of underwood beech never to caſt it's leaf all the winter; ſo that, with the leaves on the ground and thoſe on the twigs, no ſhelter can be more complete. I watched them on to the thirteenth and fourteenth of *October*, and found their evening retreat was exact and uniform; but after this they made no regular appearance. Now and then a ſtraggler was ſeen; and, on the twenty-ſecond of *October*, I obſerved two in the morning over the village, and with them my remarks for the ſeaſon ended.

From all theſe circumſtances put together, it is more than probable that this lingering flight, at ſo late a ſeaſon of the year, never departed from the iſland. Had they indulged me that autumn with a *November* viſit, as I much deſired, I preſume that, with proper aſſiſtants, I ſhould have ſettled the matter paſt all doubt; but though the third of *November* was a ſweet day, and in appearance exactly ſuited to my wiſhes, yet not a martin was to be ſeen; and ſo I was forced, reluctantly, to give up the purſuit.

I have only to add that were the buſhes, which cover ſome acres, and are not my own property, to be grubbed and carefully examined, probably thoſe late broods, and perhaps the whole aggregate body of the houſe-martins of this diſtrict, might be found there, in different ſecret dormitories; and that, ſo far from withdrawing into warmer climes, it would appear that they never depart three hundred yards from the village.

LETTER LVI.

TO THE SAME.

THEY who write on natural hiſtory cannot too frequently advert to *inſtinct*, that wonderful limited faculty, which, in ſome inſtances, raiſes the brute creation as it were above *reaſon*, and in others leaves them ſo far below it. Philoſophers have defined *inſtinct* to be that ſecret influence by which every ſpecies is impelled naturally to purſue, at all times, the ſame way or track, without any teaching or example; whereas *reaſon*, without inſtruction, would often vary and do that by many methods which *inſtinct* effects by one alone. Now this maxim muſt be taken in a qualified ſenſe; for there are inſtances in which *inſtinct* does vary and conform to the circumſtances of place and convenience.

It has been remarked that every ſpecies of bird has a mode of nidification peculiar to itſelf; ſo that a ſchool-boy would at once pronounce on the ſort of neſt before him. This is the caſe among fields and woods, and wilds; but, in the villages round *London*, where moſſes and goſſamer, and cotton from vegetables, are hardly to be found, the neſt of the *chaffinch* has not that elegant finiſhed appearance, nor is it ſo beautifully ſtudded with lichens, as in a more rural diſtrict: and the *wren* is obliged to conſtruct it's houſe with ſtraws and dry graſſes, which do not give it that rotundity and compactneſs ſo remarkable in the edifices of that little architect. Again, the regular neſt of the *houſe-martin* is hemiſpheric;

hemiſpheric; but where a rafter, or a joiſt, or a cornice, may happen to ſtand in the way, the neſt is ſo contrived as to conform to the obſtruction, and becomes flat or oval, or compreſſed.

In the following inſtances *inſtinct* is perfectly uniform and conſiſtent. There are three creatures, the *ſquirrel*, the *field-mouſe*, and the bird called the *nut-hatch*, *(ſitta Europæa)*, which live much on hazle-nuts; and yet they open them each in a different way. The firſt, after raſping off the ſmall end, ſplits the ſhell in two with his long fore-teeth, as a man does with his knife; the ſecond nibbles a hole with his teeth, ſo regular as if drilled with a wimble, and yet ſo ſmall that one would wonder how the kernel can be extracted through it; while the laſt picks an irregular ragged hole with it's bill: but as this artiſt has no paws to hold the nut firm while he pierces it, like an adroit workman, he fixes it, as it were in a vice, in ſome cleft of a tree, or in ſome crevice; when, ſtanding over it, he perforates the ſtubborn ſhell. We have often placed nuts in the chink of a gate-poſt where *nut-hatches* have been known to haunt, and have always found that thoſe birds have readily penetrated them. While at work they make a rapping noiſe that may be heard at a conſiderable diſtance.

You that underſtand both the theory and practical part of muſic may beſt inform us why *harmony* or *melody* ſhould ſo ſtrangely affect ſome men, as it were by recollection, for days after a concert is over. What I mean the following paſſage will moſt readily explain:

" Præhabebat porrò vocibus humanis, inſtrumentiſque har-
" monicis muſicam illam avium: non quod aliâ quoque non
" delectaretur; ſed quod ex muſicâ humanâ relinqueretur in
" animo continens quædam, attentionemque et ſomnum con-
" turbans agitatio; dum aſcenſus, exſcenſus, tenores, ac muta-

" tiones illæ ſonorum, et conſonantiarum euntque, redeuntque
" per phantaſiam : — cum nihil tale relinqui poſſit ex modu-
" lationibus avium, quæ, quod non ſunt perinde a nobis
" imitabiles, non poſſunt perinde internam facultatem com-
" movere." *Gaſſendus in Vitâ Peireſkii.*

This curious quotation ſtrikes me much by ſo well repreſenting my own caſe, and by deſcribing what I have ſo often felt, but never could ſo well expreſs. When I hear fine muſic I am haunted with paſſages therefrom night and day; and eſpecially at firſt waking, which, by their importunity, give me more uneaſineſs than pleaſure: elegant leſſons ſtill teaſe my imagination, and recur irreſiſtibly to my recollection at ſeaſons, and even when I am deſirous of thinking of more ſerious matters.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER LVII.

TO THE SAME.

A RARE, and I think a new, little bird frequents my garden, which I have great reaſon to think is the *pettichaps:* it is common in ſome parts of the kingdom; and I have received formerly ſeveral dead ſpecimens from *Gibraltar*. This bird much reſembles the *white-throat*, but has a more white or rather ſilvery breaſt and belly; is reſtleſs and active, like the *willow-wrens*, and hops from bough to bough, examining every part for food; it alſo runs up the ſtems of the *crown-imperials*, and, putting it's head into the bells of thoſe flowers, ſips the liquor which ſtands in the *nectarium* of each petal. Sometimes it feeds on the ground like the *hedge-ſparrow*, by hopping about on the graſs-plots and mown walks.

One of my neighbours, an intelligent and obſerving man, informs me that, in the beginning of *May*, and about ten minutes before eight o'clock in the evening, he diſcovered a great cluſter of *houſe-ſwallows*, thirty at leaſt he ſuppoſes, perching on a willow that hung over the verge of *James Knight*'s upper-pond. His attention was firſt drawn by the twittering of theſe birds, which ſat motionleſs in a row on the bough, with their heads all one way, and, by their weight, preſſing down the twig ſo that it nearly touched the water. In this ſituation he watched them till he could ſee no longer. Repeated accounts of this ſort, ſpring and fall, induce us greatly to ſuſpect that *houſe-ſwallows* have ſome ſtrong attachment

attachment to water, independent of the matter of food; and, though they may not retire into that element, yet they may conceal themſelves in the banks of pools and rivers during the uncomfortable months of winter.

One of the keepers of *Woolmer-foreſt* ſent me a *peregrine-falcon*, which he ſhot on the verge of that diſtrict as it was devouring a wood-pigeon. The *falco peregrinus*, or *haggard falcon*, is a noble ſpecies of hawk ſeldom ſeen in the ſouthern counties. In winter 1767 one was killed in the neighbouring pariſh of *Faringdon*, and ſent by me to Mr. *Pennant* into *North-Wales*[b]. Since that time I have met with none till now. The ſpecimen mentioned above was in fine preſervation, and not injured by the ſhot: it meaſured forty-two inches from wing to wing, and twenty-one from beak to tail, and weighed two pounds and an half ſtanding weight. This ſpecies is very robuſt, and wonderfully formed for rapine: it's breaſt was plump and muſcular; it's thighs long, thick, and brawny; and it's legs remarkably ſhort and well ſet: the feet were armed with moſt formidable, ſharp, long talons: the eyelids and cere of the bill were yellow; but the irides of the eyes duſky; the beak was thick and hooked, and of a dark colour, and had a jagged proceſs near the end of the upper mandible on each ſide: it's tail, or train, was ſhort in proportion to the bulk of it's body: yet the wings, when cloſed, did not extend to the end of the train. From it's large and fair proportions it might be ſuppoſed to have been a female; but I was not permitted to cut open the ſpecimen. For one of the birds of prey, which are uſually lean, this was in high caſe: in it's craw were many barley-corns, which probably came from the crop of the wood-pigeon, on

[b] See my tenth and eleventh letter to that gentleman.

which

which it was feeding when ſhot: for voracious birds do not eat grain; but, when devouring their quarry, with undiſtinguiſhing vehemence ſwallow bones and feathers, and all matters, indiſcriminately. This falcon was probably driven from the mountains of *North Wales* or *Scotland*, where they are known to breed, by rigorous weather and deep ſnows that had lately fallen.

I am, &c.

LETTER LVIII.

TO THE SAME.

My near neighbour, a young gentleman in the ſervice of the *Eaſt-India* Company, has brought home a dog and a bitch of the *Chineſe* breed from *Canton*; ſuch as are fattened in that country for the purpoſe of being eaten: they are about the ſize of a moderate ſpaniel; of a pale yellow colour, with coarſe briſtling hairs on their backs; ſharp upright ears, and peaked heads, which give them a very fox-like appearance. Their hind legs are unuſually ſtraight, without any bend at the hock or ham, to ſuch a degree as to give them an aukward gait when they trot. When they are in motion their tails are curved high over their backs like thoſe of ſome hounds, and have a bare place each on the outſide from the tip midway, that does not ſeem to be matter of accident,

accident, but ſomewhat ſingular. Their eyes are jet-black, ſmall, and piercing; the inſides of their lips and mouths of the ſame colour, and their tongues blue. The bitch has a dew-claw on each hind leg; the dog has none. When taken out into a field the bitch ſhowed ſome diſpoſition for hunting, and dwelt on the ſcent of a covey of partridges till ſhe ſprung them, giving her tongue all the time. The dogs in *South America* are dumb; but theſe bark much in a ſhort thick manner, like foxes; and have a ſurly, ſavage demeanour like their anceſtors, which are not domeſticated, but bred up in ſties, where they are fed for the table with rice-meal and other farinaceous food. Theſe dogs, having been taken on board as ſoon as weaned, could not learn much from their dam; yet they did not reliſh fleſh when they came to *England*. In the iſlands of the *pacific* ocean the dogs are bred up on vegetables, and would not eat fleſh when offered them by our circumnavigators.

We believe that all dogs, in a ſtate of nature, have ſharp, upright fox-like ears; and that hanging ears, which are eſteemed ſo graceful, are the effect of choice breeding and cultivation. Thus, in the Travels of *Iſbrandt Ides* from *Muſcovy* to *China*, the dogs which draw the *Tartars* on ſnow-ſledges near the river *Oby* are engraved with prick-ears, like thoſe from *Canton*. The *Kamſchatdales* alſo train the ſame ſort of ſharp-eared peak-noſed dogs to draw their ſledges; as may be ſeen in an elegant print engraved for Captain *Cook*'s laſt voyage round the world.

Now we are upon the ſubject of dogs, it may not be impertinent to add, that ſpaniels, as all ſportſmen know, though they hunt partridges and pheaſants as it were by inſtinct, and with much delight and alacrity, yet will hardly touch their bones when offered as food; nor will a mongrel dog of my own, though he

is

is remarkable for finding that ſort of game. But, when we came to offer the bones of partridges to the two *Chineſe* dogs, they devoured them with much greedineſs, and licked the platter clean.

No ſporting dogs will fluſh woodcocks till inured to the ſcent and trained to the ſport, which they then purſue with vehemence and tranſport; but then they will not touch their bones, but turn from them with abhorrence, even when they are hungry.

Now, that dogs ſhould not be fond of the bones of ſuch birds as they are not diſpoſed to hunt is no wonder; but why they reject and do not care to eat their natural game is not ſo eaſily accounted for, ſince the end of hunting ſeems to be, that the chaſe purſued ſhould be eaten. Dogs again will not devour the more rancid water-fowls, nor indeed the bones of any wild-fowls; nor will they touch the fœtid bodies of birds that feed on offal and garbage: and indeed there may be ſomewhat of providential inſtinct in this circumſtance of diſlike; for vultures [c], and kites, and ravens, and crows, &c. were intended to be meſſmates with dogs [d] over their carrion; and ſeem to be appointed by Nature as fellow-ſcavengers to remove all cadaverous nuiſances from the face of the earth.

I am, &c.

[c] *Haſſelquiſt*, in his Travels to the *Levant*, obſerves that the dogs and vultures at *Grand Cairo* maintain ſuch a friendly intercourſe as to bring up their young together in the ſame place.

[d] The *Chineſe* word for a dog to an *European* ear ſounds like *quibleh*.

LETTER LIX.

TO THE SAME.

THE foſſil wood buried in the bogs of *Wolmer-foreſt* is not yet all exhauſted; for the peat-cutters now and then ſtumble upon a log. I have juſt ſeen a piece which was ſent by a labourer of *Oakhanger* to a carpenter of this village; this was the but-end of a ſmall oak, about five feet long, and about five inches in diameter. It had apparently been ſevered from the ground by an axe, was very ponderous, and as black as ebony. Upon aſking the carpenter for what purpoſe he had procured it; he told me that it was to be ſent to his brother, a joiner at *Farnham*, who was to make uſe of it in cabinet work, by inlaying it along with whiter woods.

Thoſe that are much abroad on evenings after it is dark, in ſpring and ſummer, frequently hear a nocturnal bird paſſing by on the wing, and repeating often a ſhort quick note. This bird I have remarked myſelf, but never could make out till lately. I am aſſured now that it is the *Stone-curlew, (charadrius oedicnemus)*. Some of them paſs over or near my houſe almoſt every evening after it is dark, from the uplands of the hill and *North field*, away down towards *Dorton*; where, among the ſtreams and meadows, they find a greater plenty of food. Birds that fly by night are obliged to be noiſy; their notes often repeated become ſignals or watch-words to keep them together, that they may not ſtray or loſe each the other in the dark.

The

The evening proceedings and manœuvres of the rooks are curious and amuſing in the autumn. Juſt before duſk they return in long ſtrings from the foraging of the day, and rendezvous by thouſands over *Selborne-down*, where they wheel round in the air, and ſport and dive in a playful manner, all the while exerting their voices, and making a loud cawing, which, being blended and ſoftened by the diſtance that we at the village are below them, becomes a confuſed noiſe or chiding; or rather a pleaſing murmur, very engaging to the imagination, and not unlike the cry of a pack of hounds in hollow, echoing woods, or the ruſhing of the wind in tall trees, or the tumbling of the tide upon a pebbly ſhore. When this ceremony is over, with the laſt gleam of day, they retire for the night to the deep beechen woods of *Tiſted* and *Ropley*. We remember a little girl who, as ſhe was going to bed, uſed to remark on ſuch an occurrence, in the true ſpirit of *phyſico-theology*, that the rooks were ſaying their prayers; and yet this child was much too young to be aware that the ſcriptures have ſaid of the Deity—that "he feedeth the ravens who call upon him."

I am, &c.

LETTER LX.

TO THE SAME.

In reading Dr. *Huxham's Obſervationes de Aëre*, &c. written at *Plymouth*, I find by thoſe curious and accurate remarks, which contain an account of the weather from the year 1727 to the year 1748, incluſive, that though there is frequent rain in that diſtrict of *Devonſhire*, yet the quantity falling is not great; and that ſome years it has been very ſmall: for in 1731 the rain meaſured only 17^{inch}.—266^{theu}. and in 1741, 20—354; and again, in 1743 only 20—908. Places near the ſea have frequent ſcuds, that keep the atmoſphere moiſt, yet do not reach far up into the country; making thus the maritime ſituations appear wet, when the rain is not conſiderable. In the wetteſt years at *Plymouth* the Doctor meaſured only once 36; and again once, viz. 1734, 37—114: a quantity of rain that has twice been exceeded at *Selborne* in the ſhort period of my obſervations. Dr. *Huxham* remarks that frequent ſmall rains keep the air moiſt; while heavy ones render it more dry, by beating down the vapours. He is alſo of opinion that the *dingy, ſmoky appearance* in the ſky, in very dry ſeaſons, ariſes from the want of moiſture ſufficient to let the light through, and render the atmoſphere tranſparent; becauſe he had obſerved ſeveral bodies more diaphanous when wet than dry; and did never recollect that the air had that look in rainy ſeaſons.

My

My friend, who lives juſt beyond the top of the down, brought his three ſwivel guns to try them in my outlet, with their muzzles towards the *Hanger*, ſuppoſing that the report would have had a great effect; but the experiment did not anſwer his expectation. He then removed them to the *Alcove* on the *Hanger*; when the ſound, ruſhing along the *Lythe* and *Comb-wood*, was very grand: but it was at the *Hermitage* that the echoes and repercuſſions delighted the hearers; not only filling the *Lythe* with the roar, as if all the beeches were tearing up by the roots; but, turning to the left, they pervaded the vale above *Combwood-ponds*; and after a pauſe ſeemed to take up the craſh again, and to extend round *Harteley-hangers*, and to die away at laſt among the coppices and coverts of *Ward-le-ham*. It has been remarked before that this diſtrict is an *anatboth*, a place of reſponſes or echoes, and therefore proper for ſuch experiments: we may farther add that the pauſes in echoes, when they ceaſe and yet are taken up again, like the pauſes in muſic, ſurpriſe the hearers, and have a fine effect on the imagination.

The gentleman abovementioned has juſt fixed a barometer in his parlour at *Newton Valence*. The tube was firſt filled here (at *Selborne*) twice with care, when the mercury agreed and ſtood exactly with my own; but, being filled again twice at *Newton*, the mercury ſtood, on account of the great elevation of that houſe, three-tenths of an inch lower than the barometers at this village, and ſo continues to do, be the weight of the atmoſphere what it may. The plate of the barometer at *Newton* is figured as low as 27; becauſe in ſtormy weather the mercury there will ſometimes deſcend below 28. We have ſuppoſed *Newton-houſe* to ſtand two hundred feet higher than this houſe: but if the rule holds good, which ſays that mercury in a barometer ſinks one-tenth

of

of an inch for every hundred feet elevation, then the *Newton* barometer, by ſtanding three-tenths lower than that of *Selborne*, proves that *Newton-houſe* muſt be three hundred feet higher than that in which I am writing, inſtead of two hundred.

It may not be impertinent to add, that the barometers at *Selborne* ſtand three-tenths of an inch lower than the barometers at *South Lambeth:* whence we may conclude that the former place is about three hundred feet higher than the latter; and with good, reaſon becauſe the ſtreams that riſe with us run into the *Thames* at *Weybridge*, and ſo to *London*. Of courſe therefore there muſt be lower ground all the way from *Selborne* to *South Lambeth*; the diſtance between which, all the windings and indentings of the ſtreams conſidered, cannot be leſs than an hundred miles.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER LXI.

TO THE SAME.

SINCE the weather of a diſtrict is undoubtedly part of it's natural hiſtory, I ſhall make no further apology for the four following letters, which will contain many particulars concerning ſome of the great froſts and a few reſpecting ſome very hot ſummers, that have diſtinguiſhed themſelves from the reſt during the courſe of my obſervations.

As the froſt in *January* 1768 was, for the ſmall time it laſted, the moſt ſevere that we had then known for many years, and was remarkably injurious to ever-greens, ſome account of it's rigour, and reaſon of it's ravages, may be uſeful, and not unacceptable to perſons that delight in planting and ornamenting; and may particularly become a work that profeſſes never to loſe ſight of utility.

For the laſt two or three days of the former year there were conſiderable falls of ſnow, which lay deep and uniform on the ground without any drifting, wrapping up the more humble vegetation in perfect ſecurity. From the firſt day to the fifth of the new year more ſnow ſucceeded; but from that day the air became entirely clear; and the heat of the ſun about noon had a conſiderable influence in ſheltered ſituations.

It was in ſuch an aſpect that the ſnow on the author's evergreens was melted every day, and frozen intenſely every night; ſo that the lauruſtines, bays, laurels, and arbutuſes looked, in three or four days, as if they had been burnt in the fire; while a neighbour's plantation of the ſame kind, in a high cold ſituation, where the ſnow was never melted at all, remained uninjured.

From hence I would infer that it is the repeated melting and freezing of the ſnow that is ſo fatal to vegetation, rather than the ſeverity of the cold. Therefore it highly behoves every planter, who wiſhes to eſcape the cruel mortification of loſing in a few days the labour and hopes of years, to beſtir himſelf on ſuch emergencies; and, if his plantations are ſmall, to avail himſelf of mats, cloths, peaſe-haum, ſtraw, reeds, or any ſuch covering, for a ſhort time; or, if his ſhrubberies are extenſive, to ſee that his people go about with prongs and forks, and carefully diſlodge the ſnow from the boughs: ſince the naked foliage will ſhift much better for itſelf, than where the ſnow is partly melted and frozen again.

It may perhaps appear at firſt like a paradox; but doubtleſs the more tender trees and ſhrubs ſhould never be planted in hot aſpects; not only for the reaſon aſſigned above, but alſo becauſe, thus circumſtanced, they are diſpoſed to ſhoot earlier in the ſpring, and to grow on later in the autumn, than they would otherwiſe do, and ſo are ſufferers by lagging or early froſts. For this reaſon alſo plants from *Siberia* will hardly endure our climate; becauſe, on the very firſt advances of ſpring, they ſhoot away, and ſo are cut off by the ſevere nights of *March* or *April*.

Dr. *Fothergill* and others have experienced the ſame inconvenience with reſpect to the more tender ſhrubs from *North-America*; which they therefore plant under north-walls. There ſhould alſo perhaps be

be a wall to the eaſt to defend them from the piercing blaſts from that quarter.

This obſervation might without any impropriety be carried into animal life; for diſcerning bee-maſters now find that their hives ſhould not in the winter be expoſed to the hot ſun, becauſe ſuch unſeaſonable warmth awakens the inhabitants too early from their ſlumbers; and, by putting their juices into motion too ſoon, ſubjects them afterwards to inconveniencies when rigorous weather returns.

The coincidents attending this ſhort but intenſe froſt were, that the horſes fell ſick with an epidemic diſtemper, which injured the winds of many, and killed ſome; that colds and coughs were general among the human ſpecies; that it froze under people's beds for ſeveral nights; that meat was ſo hard frozen that it could not be ſpitted, and could not be ſecured but in cellars; that ſeveral redwings and thruſhes were killed by the froſt; and that the large titmouſe continued to pull ſtraws lengthwiſe from the eaves of thatched houſes and barns in a moſt adroit manner, for a purpoſe that has been explained already[d].

On the 3d of *January Benjamin Martin*'s thermometer within doors, in a cloſe parlour where there was no fire, fell in the night to 20, and on the 4th to 18, and on the 7th to 17½, a degree of cold which the owner never ſince ſaw in the ſame ſituation; and he regrets much that he was not able at that juncture to attend his inſtrument abroad. All this time the wind continued north and north-eaſt; and yet on the 8th rooſt-cocks, which had been ſilent, began to ſound their clarions, and crows to clamour, as prognoſtic of milder weather; and, moreover, moles began to

[d] See Letter xli. to Mr. *Pennant*.

heave and work, and a manifeſt thaw took place. From the latter circumſtance we may conclude that thaws often originate under ground from warm vapours which ariſe; elſe how ſhould ſubterraneous animals receive ſuch early intimations of their approach. Moreover, we have often obſerved that cold ſeems to deſcend from above; for, when a thermometer hangs abroad in a froſty night, the intervention of a cloud ſhall immediately raiſe the mercury ten degrees; and a clear ſky ſhall again compel it to deſcend to it's former gage.

And here it may be proper to obſerve, on what has been ſaid above, that though froſts advance to their utmoſt ſeverity by ſomewhat of a regular gradation, yet thaws do not uſually come on by as regular a declenſion of cold; but often take place immediately from intenſe freezing; as men in ſickneſs often mend at once from a paroxyſm.

To the great credit of *Portugal* laurels and *American* junipers, be it remembered that they remained untouched amidſt the general havock: hence men ſhould learn to ornament chiefly with ſuch trees as are able to withſtand accidental ſeverities, and not ſubject themſelves to the vexation of a loſs which may befall them once perhaps in ten years, yet may hardly be recovered through the whole courſe of their lives.

As it appeared afterwards the ilexes were much injured, the cypreſſes were half deſtroyed, the arbutuſes lingered on, but never recovered; and the bays, lauruſtines, and laurels, were killed to the ground; and the very wild hollies, in hot aſpects, were ſo much affected that they caſt all their leaves.

By the 14th of *January* the ſnow was entirely gone; the turnips emerged not damaged at all, ſave in ſunny places; the wheat looked delicately, and the garden plants were well preſerved; for

for ſnow is the moſt kindly mantle that infant vegetation can be wrapped in: were it not for that friendly meteor no vegetable life could exiſt at all in northerly regions. Yet in *Sweden* the earth in *April* is not diveſted of ſnow for more than a fortnight before the face of the country is covered with flowers.

LETTER LXI.

TO THE SAME.

THERE were ſome circumſtances attending the remarkable froſt in *January* 1776 ſo ſingular and ſtriking, that a ſhort detail of them may not be unacceptable.

The moſt certain way to be exact will be to copy the paſſages from my journal, which were taken from time to time as things occurred. But it may be proper previouſly to remark that the firſt week in *January* was uncommonly wet, and drowned with vaſt rains from every quarter: from whence may be inferred, as there is great reaſon to believe is the caſe, that intenſe froſts ſeldom take place till the earth is perfectly glutted and chilled with water[f]; and hence dry autumns are ſeldom followed by rigorous winters.

[f] The autumn preceding *January* 1768 was very wet, and particularly the month of *September*, during which there fell at *Lyndon*, in the county of *Rutland*, *ſix inches and an half* of rain. And the terrible long froſt in 1739-40 ſet in after a rainy ſeaſon, and when the ſprings were very high.

January 7th.—Snow driving all the day, which was followed by froſt, ſleet, and ſome ſnow, till the 12th, when a prodigious maſs overwhelmed all the works of men, drifting over the tops of the gates and filling the hollow lanes.

On the 14th the writer was obliged to be much abroad; and thinks he never before or ſince has encountered ſuch rugged *Siberian* weather. Many of the narrow roads were now filled above the tops of the hedges; through which the ſnow was driven into moſt romantic and groteſque ſhapes, ſo ſtriking to the imagination as not to be ſeen without wonder and pleaſure. The poultry dared not to ſtir out of their rooſting places; for cocks and hens are ſo dazzled and confounded by the glare of ſnow that they would ſoon periſh without aſſiſtance. The hares alſo lay ſullenly in their ſeats, and would not move till compelled by hunger; being conſcious, poor animals, that the drifts and heaps treacherouſly betray their footſteps, and prove fatal to numbers of them.

From the 14th the ſnow continued to increaſe, and began to ſtop the road waggons and coaches, which could no longer keep on their regular ſtages; and eſpecially on the weſtern roads, where the fall appears to have been deeper than in the ſouth. The company at *Bath*, that wanted to attend the *Queen's birth-day*, were ſtrangely incommoded: many carriages of perſons, who got in their way to town from *Bath* as far as *Marlborough*, after ſtrange embarraſſments, here met with a *ne plus ultra*. The ladies fretted, and offered large rewards to labourers if they would ſhovel them a track to *London:* but the relentleſs heaps of ſnow were too bulky to be removed; and ſo the 18th paſſed over, leaving the company in very uncomfortable circumſtances at the *Caſtle* and other inns.

On

On the 20th the ſun ſhone out for the firſt time ſince the froſt began; a circumſtance that has been remarked before much in favour of vegetation. All this time the cold was not very intenſe, for the thermometer ſtood at 29, 28, 25, and thereabout; but on the 21ſt it deſcended to 20. The birds now began to be in a very pitiable and ſtarving condition. Tamed by the ſeaſon, ſky-larks ſettled in the ſtreets of towns, becauſe they ſaw the ground was bare; rooks frequented dunghills cloſe to houſes; and crows watched horſes as they paſſed, and greedily devoured what dropped from them; hares now came into men's gardens, and, ſcraping away the ſnow, devoured ſuch plants as they could find.

On the 22d the author had occaſion to go to *London* through a ſort of *Laplandian-ſcene*, very wild and groteſque indeed. But the metropolis itſelf exhibited a ſtill more ſingular appearance than the country; for, being bedded deep in ſnow, the pavement of the ſtreets could not be touched by the wheels or the horſes' feet, ſo that the carriages ran about without the leaſt noiſe. Such an exemption from din and clatter was ſtrange, but not pleaſant; it ſeemed to convey an uncomfortable idea of deſolation:

"— — — — — — — — — ipſa ſilentia terrent."

On the 27th much ſnow fell all day, and in the evening the froſt became very intenſe. At *South Lambeth*, for the four following nights, the thermometer fell to 11, 7, 6, 6; and at *Selborne* to 7, 6, 10; and on the 31ſt of *January*, juſt before ſun-riſe, with rime on the trees and on the tube of the glaſs, the quickſilver ſunk exactly to zero, being 32 degrees below the freezing point: but by eleven in the morning, though in the ſhade,

ſhade, it ſprung up to 16½[g].—a moſt unuſual degree of cold this for the ſouth of *England!* During theſe four nights the cold was ſo penetrating that it occaſioned ice in warm chambers and under beds; and in the day the wind was ſo keen that perſons of robuſt conſtitutions could ſcarcely endure to face it. The *Thames* was at once ſo frozen over both above and below bridge that crowds ran about on the ice. The ſtreets were now ſtrangely encumbered with ſnow, which crumbled and trod duſty; and, turning grey, reſembled bay-ſalt: what had fallen on the roofs was ſo perfectly dry that, from firſt to laſt, it lay twenty-ſix days on the houſes in the city; a longer time than had been remembered by the oldeſt houſekeepers living. According to all appearances we might now have expected the continuance of this rigorous weather for weeks to come, ſince every night increaſed in ſeverity; but behold, without any apparent cauſe, on the 1ſt of *February* a thaw took place, and ſome rain followed before night; making good the obſervation above, that froſts often go off as it were at once, without any gradual declenſion of cold. On the 2d of *February* the thaw perſiſted; and on the 3d ſwarms of little inſects were friſking and ſporting in a court-yard at *South Lambeth*, as if they had felt no froſt. Why the juices in the ſmall bodies and ſmaller limbs of ſuch minute beings are not frozen is a matter of curious inquiry.

Severe froſts ſeem to be partial, or to run in currents; for, at the ſame juncture, as the author was informed by accurate corre-

[g] At *Selborne* the cold was greater than at any other place that the author could hear of with certainty: though ſome reported at the time that at a village in *Kent* the thermometer fell two degrees below zero, *viz.* 34 degrees below the freezing point.

The thermometer uſed at *Selborne* was graduated by *Benjamin Martin*.

ſpondents,

ſpondents, at *Lyndon*, in the county of *Rutland*, the thermometer ſtood at 19; at *Blackburn*, in *Lancaſhire*, at 19; and at *Manchester* at 21, 20, and 18. Thus does ſome unknown circumſtance ſtrangely overbalance latitude, and render the cold ſometimes much greater in the ſouthern than the northern parts of this kingdom.

The conſequences of this ſeverity were, that in *Hampſhire*, at the melting of the ſnow, the wheat looked well, and the turnips came forth little injured. The laurels and lauruſtines were ſomewhat damaged, but only in *hot aſpects*. No evergreens were quite deſtroyed; and not half the damage ſuſtained that befell in *January* 1768. Thoſe laurels that were a little ſcorched on the ſouth-ſides were perfectly untouched on their north-ſides. The care taken to ſhake the ſnow day by day from the branches ſeemed greatly to avail the author's evergreens. A neighbour's laurel-hedge, in a high ſituation, and facing to the north, was perfectly green and vigorous; and the *Portugal laurels* remained unhurt.

As to the birds, the thruſhes and blackbirds were moſtly deſtroyed; and the partridges, by the weather and poachers, were ſo thinned that few remained to breed the following year.

LETTER

LETTER LXII.

TO THE SAME.

As the froſt in *December* 1784 was very extraordinary, you, I truſt, will not be diſpleaſed to hear the particulars; and eſpecially when I promiſe to ſay no more about the ſeverities of winter after I have finiſhed this letter.

The firſt week in *December* was very wet, with the barometer very low. On the 7th, with the barometer at 28—five tenths, came on a vaſt ſnow, which continued all that day and the next, and moſt part of the following night; ſo that by the morning of the 9th the works of men were quite overwhelmed, the lanes filled ſo as to be impaſſable, and the ground covered twelve or fifteen inches without any drifting. In the evening of the 9th the air began to be ſo very ſharp that we thought it would be curious to attend to the motions of a thermometer: we therefore hung out two; one made by *Martin* and one by *Dollond*, which ſoon began to ſhew us what we were to expect; for, by ten o'clock, they fell to 21, and at eleven to 4, when we went to bed. On the 10th, in the morning, the quickſilver of *Dollond*'s glaſs was down to *half a degree below zero*; and that of *Martin*'s, which was abſurdly graduated only to four degrees *above zero*, ſunk quite into the braſs guard of the ball; ſo that when the weather became moſt intereſting this was uſeleſs. On the 10th, at eleven at night, though the air was perfectly ſtill, *Dollond*'s glaſs went down to

to *one degree below zero!* This ſtrange ſeverity of the weather made me very deſirous to know what degree of cold there might be in ſuch an exalted and near ſituation as *Newton*. We had therefore, on the morning of the 10th, written to Mr. ——, and entreated him to hang out his thermometer, made by *Adams*; and to pay ſome attention to it morning and evening; expecting wonderful phænomena, in ſo elevated a region, at two hundred feet or more above my houſe. But, behold! on the 10th, at eleven at night, it was down only to 17, and the next morning at 22, when mine was at ten! We were ſo diſturbed at this unexpected reverſe of comparative local cold, that we ſent one of my glaſſes up, thinking that of Mr. —— muſt, ſome how, be wrongly conſtructed. But, when the inſtruments came to be confronted, they went exactly together: ſo that, for one night at leaſt, the cold at *Newton* was 18 degrees leſs than at *Selborne*; and, through the whole froſt, 10 or 12 degrees; and indeed, when we came to obſerve conſequences, we could readily credit this; for all my laurueſtines, bays, ilexes, arbutuſes, cypreſſes, and even my *Portugal laurels* [h], and (which occaſions more regret) my fine ſloping laurel-hedge, were ſcorched up; while, at *Newton*, the ſame trees have not loſt a leaf!

We had ſteady froſt on to the 25th, when the thermometer in the morning was down to 10 with us, and at *Newton* only to 21. Strong froſt continued till the 31ſt, when ſome tendency to thaw was obſerved; and, by *January* the 3d, 1785, the thaw was confirmed, and ſome rain fell.

[h] Mr. *Miller*, in his Gardener's Dictionary, ſays poſitively that the *Portugal laurels* remained untouched in the remarkable froſt of 1739-40. So that either that accurate obſerver was much miſtaken, or elſe the froſt of *December* 1784 was much more ſevere and deſtructive than that in the year above-mentioned.

A circumſtance that I muſt not omit, becauſe it was new to us, is, that on *Friday*, *December* the 10th, being bright ſun-ſhine, the air was full of icy *ſpiculæ*, floating in all directions, like atoms in a ſun-beam let into a dark room. We thought them at firſt particles of the rime falling from my tall hedges; but were ſoon convinced to the contrary, by making our obſervations in open places where no rime could reach us. Were they watery particles of the air frozen as they floated; or were they evaporations from the ſnow frozen as they mounted?

We were much obliged to the thermometers for the early information they gave us; and hurried our apples, pears, onions, potatoes, &c. into the cellar, and warm cloſets; while thoſe who had not, or neglected ſuch warnings, loſt all their ſtore of roots and fruits, and had their very bread and cheeſe frozen.

I muſt not omit to tell you that, during thoſe two *Siberian* days, my parlour-cat was ſo electric, that had a perſon ſtroked her, and been properly *inflated*, the ſhock might have been given to a whole circle of people.

I forgot to mention before, that, during the two ſevere days, two men, who were tracing hares in the ſnow, had their feet frozen; and two men, who were much better employed, had their fingers ſo affected by the froſt, while they were thraſhing in a barn, that a mortification followed, from which they did not recover for many weeks.

This froſt killed all the furze and moſt of the ivy, and in many places ſtripped the hollies of all their leaves. It came at a very early time of the year, before old *November* ended; and yet may be allowed from it's effects to have exceeded any ſince 1739-40.

LETTER

LETTER LXIII.

TO THE SAME.

As the effects of heat are ſeldom very remarkable in the northerly climate of *England*, where the ſummers are often ſo defective in warmth and ſun-ſhine as not to ripen the fruits of the earth ſo well as might be wiſhed, I ſhall be more conciſe in my account of the ſeverity of a ſummer ſeaſon, and ſo make a little amends for the prolix account of the degrees of cold, and the inconveniences that we ſuffered from ſome late rigorous winters.

The ſummers of 1781 and 1783 were unuſually hot and dry; to them therefore I ſhall turn back in my journals, without recurring to any more diſtant period. In the former of theſe years my peach and nectarine-trees ſuffered ſo much from the heat that the rind on the bodies was ſcalded and came off; ſince which the trees have been in a decaying ſtate. This may prove a hint to aſſiduous gardeners to fence and ſhelter their wall-trees with mats or boards, as they may eaſily do, becauſe ſuch annoyance is ſeldom of long continuance. During that ſummer alſo, I obſerved that my apples were coddled, as it were, on the trees; ſo that they had no quickneſs of flavour, and would not keep in the winter. This circumſtance put me in mind of what I have heard travellers aſſert, that they never ate a good apple or apricot in the ſouth of *Europe*,

where the heats were ſo great as to render the juices vapid and inſipid.

The great peſts of a garden are waſps, which deſtroy all the finer fruits juſt as they are coming into perfection. In 1781 we had none; in 1783 there were myriads; which would have devoured all the produce of my garden, had not we ſet the boys to take the neſts, and caught thouſands with hazel-twigs tipped with bird-lime: we have ſince employed the boys to take and deſtroy the large breeding waſps in the ſpring. Such expedients have a great effect on theſe marauders, and will keep them under. Though waſps do not abound but in hot ſummers, yet they do not prevail in every hot ſummer, as I have inſtanced in the two years above-mentioned.

In the ſultry ſeaſon of 1783 honey-dews were ſo frequent as to deface and deſtroy the beauties of my garden. My honeyſuckles, which were one week the moſt ſweet and lovely objects that the eye could behold, became the next the moſt loathſome; being enveloped in a viſcous ſubſtance, and loaded with black aphides, or ſmother-flies. The occaſion of this clammy appearance ſeems to be this, that in hot weather the effluvia of flowers in fields and meadows and gardens are drawn up in the day by a briſk evaporation, and then in the night fall down again with the dews, in which they are entangled; that the air is ſtrongly ſcented, and therefore impregnated with the particles of flowers in ſummer weather, our ſenſes will inform us; and that this clammy ſweet ſubſtance is of the vegetable kind we may learn from bees, to whom it is very grateful: and we may be aſſured that it falls in the night, becauſe it is always firſt ſeen in warm ſtill mornings.

On

On chalky and ſandy ſoils, and in the hot villages about *London*, the thermometer has been often obſerved to mount as high as 83 or 84; but with us, in this hilly and woody diſtrict, I have hardly ever ſeen it exceed 80; nor does it often arrive at that pitch. The reaſon, I conclude, is, that our denſe clayey ſoil, ſo much ſhaded by trees, is not ſo eaſily heated through as thoſe above-mentioned: and, beſides, our mountains cauſe currents of air and breezes; and the vaſt effluvia from our woodlands temper and moderate our heats.

LETTER LXIV.

TO THE SAME.

THE ſummer of the year 1783 was an amazing and portentous one, and full of horrible phænomena; for, beſides the alarming meteors and tremendous thunder-ſtorms that affrighted and diſtreſſed the different counties of this kingdom, the peculiar *haze*, or ſmokey fog, that prevailed for many weeks in this iſland, and in every part of *Europe*, and even beyond it's limits, was a moſt extraordinary appearance, unlike any thing known within the memory of man. By my journal I find that I had noticed this ſtrange occurrence from *June* 23 to *July* 20 incluſive, during which period the wind varied to every quarter without making any alteration

ation in the air. The ſun, at noon, looked as blank as a clouded moon, and ſhed a ruſt-coloured ferruginous light on the ground, and floors of rooms; but was particularly lurid and blood-coloured at riſing and ſetting. All the time the heat was ſo intenſe that butchers' meat could hardly be eaten on the day after it was killed; and the flies ſwarmed ſo in the lanes and hedges that they rendered the horſes half frantic, and riding irkſome. The country people began to look with a ſuperſtitious awe at the red, louring aſpect of the ſun; and indeed there was reaſon for the moſt enlightened perſon to be apprehenſive; for, all the while, *Calabria* and part of the iſle of *Sicily*, were torn and convulſed with earthquakes; and about that juncture a *volcano* ſprung out of the ſea on the coaſt of *Norway*. On this occaſion *Milton*'s noble ſimile of the ſun, in his firſt book of *Paradiſe Loſt*, frequently occurred to my mind; and it is indeed particularly applicable, becauſe, towards the end, it alludes to a ſuperſtitious kind of dread, with which the minds of men are always impreſſed by ſuch ſtrange and unuſual phænomena.

" — — — As when the *ſun*, new riſen,
" Looks through the horizontal, *miſty* air,
" *Shorn* of his *beams*; or from behind the moon,
" In *dim* eclipſe, *diſaſtrous twilight ſheds*
" On half the nations, and with *fear* of *change*
" *Perplexes* monarchs — — — — — —"

LETTER

LETTER LXV.

TO THE SAME.

WE are very ſeldom annoyed with thunder-ſtorms: and it is no leſs remarkable than true, that thoſe which ariſe in the ſouth have hardly been known to reach this village; for, before they get over us, they take a direction to the eaſt or to the weſt, or ſometimes divide into two, and go in part to one of thoſe quarters, and in part to the other; as was truly the caſe in ſummer 1783, when, though the country round was continually haraſſed with tempeſts, and often from the ſouth, yet we eſcaped them all; as appears by my journal of that ſummer. The only way that I can at all account for this fact—for ſuch it is—is that, on that quarter, between us and the ſea, there are continual mountains, hill behind hill, ſuch as *Nore-hill*, the *Barnet*, *Butſer-hill*, and *Ports-down*, which ſome how divert the ſtorms, and give them a different direction. High promontories, and elevated grounds, have always been obſerved to attract clouds and diſarm them of their miſchievous contents, which are diſcharged into the trees and ſummits as ſoon as they come in contact with thoſe turbulent meteors; while the humble vales eſcape, becauſe they are ſo far beneath them.

But, when I ſay I do not remember a thunder-ſtorm from the ſouth, I do not mean that we never have ſuffered from thunder-

ſtorms

ſtorms at all; for on *June* 5th, 1784, the thermometer in the morning being at 64, and at noon at 70, the barometer at 29—ſix tenths one-half, and the wind north, I obſerved a blue miſt, ſmelling ſtrongly of ſulphur, hanging along our ſloping woods, and ſeeming to indicate that thunder was at hand. I was called in about two in the afternoon, and ſo miſſed ſeeing the gathering of the clouds in the north; which they who were abroad aſſured me had ſomething uncommon in it's appearance. At about a quarter after two the ſtorm began in the pariſh of *Hartley*, moving ſlowly from north to ſouth; and from thence it came over *Norton-farm*, and ſo to *Grange-farm*, both in this pariſh. It began with vaſt drops of rain, which were ſoon ſucceeded by round hail, and then by convex pieces of ice, which meaſured three inches in girth. Had it been as extenſive as it was violent, and of any continuance (for it was very ſhort), it muſt have ravaged all the neighbourhood. In the pariſh of *Hartley* it did ſome damage to one farm; but *Norton*, which lay in the center of the ſtorm, was greatly injured; as was *Grange*, which lay next to it. It did but juſt reach to the middle of the village, where the hail broke my north windows, and all my garden-lights and hand-glaſſes, and many of my neighbours' windows. The extent of the ſtorm was about two miles in length and one in breadth. We were juſt ſitting down to dinner; but were ſoon diverted from our repaſt by the clattering of tiles and the jingling of glaſs. There fell at the ſame time prodigious torrents of rain on the farms above-mentioned, which occaſioned a flood as violent as it was ſudden; doing great damage to the meadows and fallows, by deluging the one and waſhing away the ſoil of the other. The hollow lane towards *Alton* was ſo torn and diſordered as not to be paſſable till mended, rocks being removed that weighed 200 weight. Thoſe that ſaw the effect which the great

great hail had on ponds and pools ſay that the daſhing of the water made an extraordinary appearance, the froth and ſpray ſtanding up in the air three feet above the ſurface. The ruſhing and roaring of the hail, as it approached, was truly tremendous.

Though the clouds at *South Lambeth*, near *London*, were at that juncture thin and light, and no ſtorm was in ſight, nor within hearing, yet the air was ſtrongly electric; for the bells of an electric machine at that place rang repeatedly, and fierce ſparks were diſcharged.

When I firſt took the preſent work in hand I propoſed to have added an *Annus Hiſtorico-naturalis*, or The Natural Hiſtory of the Twelve Months of the Year; which would have compriſed many incidents and occurrences that have not fallen in my way to be mentioned in my ſeries of letters;—but, as Mr. *Aikin* of *Warrington* has lately publiſhed ſomewhat of this ſort, and as the length of my correſpondence has ſufficiently put your patience to the teſt, I ſhall here take a reſpectful leave of you and natural hiſtory together; And am,

With all due deference and regard,

Your moſt obliged,

And moſt humble ſervant,

SELBORNE,
June 25, 1787.

GIL. WHITE.

THE

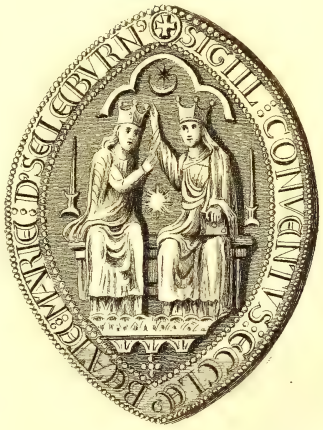
ANTIQUITIES

OF

SELBORNE,

IN THE

COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.



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DESERTOSQUE VIDERE LOCOS - - - - - VIRGIL.

THE ANTIQUITIES OF SELBORNE.

LETTER I.

IT is reaſonable to ſuppoſe that in remote ages this woody and mountainous diſtrict was inhabited only by bears and wolves. Whether the *Britons* ever thought it worthy their attention, is not in our power to determine; but we may ſafely conclude, from circumſtances, that it was not unknown to the *Romans*. Old people remember to have heard their fathers and grandfathers ſay that, in dry ſummers and in windy weather, pieces of money were ſometimes found round the verge of *Woolmer-pond*; and tradition had inſpired the foreſters with a notion that the bottom of that lake contained great ſtores of treaſure. During the ſpring and ſummer

of

of 1740 there was little rain; and the following ſummer alſo, 1741, was ſo uncommonly dry, that many ſprings and ponds failed, and this lake in particular, whoſe bed became as duſty as the ſurrounding heaths and waſtes. This favourable juncture induced ſome of the foreſt-cottagers to begin a ſearch, which was attended with ſuch ſucceſs, that all the labourers in the neighbourhood flocked to the ſpot, and with ſpades and hoes turned up great part of that large area. Inſtead of pots of coins, as they expected, they found great heaps, the one lying on the other, as if ſhot out of a bag; many of which were in good preſervation. Silver and gold theſe inquirers expected to find; but their diſcoveries conſiſted ſolely of many hundreds of *Roman* copper-coins, and ſome medallions, all of the lower empire. There was not much *virtù* ſtirring at that time in this neighbourhood; however, ſome of the gentry and clergy around bought what pleaſed them beſt; and ſome dozens fell to the ſhare of the author.

The owners at firſt held their commodity at an high price; but, finding that they were not likely to meet with dealers at ſuch a rate, they ſoon lowered their terms, and ſold the faireſt as they could. The coins that were rejected became current, and paſſed for farthings at the petty ſhops. Of thoſe that we ſaw, the greater part were of *Marcus Aurelius*, and the Empreſs *Fauſtina*, his wife, the father and mother of *Commodus*. Some of *Fauſtina* were in high relief, and exhibited a very agreeable ſet of features, which probably reſembled that lady, who was more celebrated for her beauty than for her virtues. The medallions in general were of a paler colour than the coins. To pretend to account for the means of their coming to this place would be ſpending time in conjecture. The ſpot, I think, could not be a *Roman* camp, becauſe it is commanded by hills on two ſides; nor does it ſhew the leaſt traces

of

of entrenchments; nor can I ſuppoſe that it was a *Roman* town, becauſe I have too good an opinion of the taſte and judgment of thoſe poliſhed conquerors to imagine that they would ſettle on ſo barren and dreary a waſte.

LETTER II.

THAT *Selborne* was a place of ſome diſtinction and note in the time of the *Saxons* we can give moſt undoubted proofs. But, as there are few if any accounts of villages before *Domeſday*, it will be beſt to begin with that venerable record. "Ipſe rex tenet "*Seleſburne*. *Eddid* regina tenuit, et nunquam geldavit. De iſto "manerio dono dedit rex *Radfredo* preſbytero dimidiam hidam "cum eccleſia. Tempore regis *Edwardi* et poſt, valuit duodecim "ſolidos et ſex denarios; modo octo ſolidos et quatuor denarios." Here we ſee that *Selborne* was a royal manor; and that *Editha*, the queen of *Edward* the Confeſſor, had been lady of that manor; and was ſucceeded in it by the Conqueror; and that it had a church. Beſide theſe, many circumſtances concur to prove it to have been a *Saxon* village; ſuch as the name of the place itſelf[1],

[1] *Seleſburne*, *Seleburne*, *Selburn*, *Selbourn*, *Selborne*, and *Selborn*, as it has been variouſly ſpelt at different periods, is of *Saxon* derivation; for *Sel* ſignifies *great*, and *burn* torrens, a *brook* or *rivulet*: ſo that the name ſeems to be derived from the great perennial ſtream that breaks out at the upper end of the village.—*Sel* alſo ſignifies *bonus*, item, *fœcundus*, *fertilis*. "Sel gærþ-tun: *fœcunda graminis clauſura*; *fertile paſcuum*: a meadow in the pariſh of *Godelming* is ſtill called *Sal-gars-ton*."

Lye's Saxon Dictionary, in the Supplement, by Mr. *Manning*.

the

the names of many fields, and ſome families [k], with a variety of words in huſbandry and common life, ſtill ſubſiſting among the country people.

What probably firſt drew the attention of the *Saxons* to this ſpot was the beautiful ſpring or fountain called *Well-head* [l], which induced them to build by the banks of that perennial current; for ancient ſettlers loved to reſide by brooks and rivulets, where they could dip for their water without the trouble and expenſe of digging wells and of drawing.

It remains ſtill unſettled among the antiquaries at what time tracts of land were firſt appropriated to the chaſe alone for the amuſement of the ſovereign. Whether our *Saxon* monarchs had any royal foreſts does not, I believe, appear on record; but the *Conſtitutiones de Foreſta* of *Canute*, the Dane, are come down to us. We ſhall not therefore pretend to ſay whether *Woolmer-foreſt* exiſted as a royal domain before the conqueſt. If it did not, we may ſuppoſe it

[k] Thus the name of *Aldred* ſignifies *all-reverend*, and that of *Kemp* means a *ſoldier*. Thus we have a *church-litton*, or encloſure for dead bodies, and not a *church-yard*: there is alſo a *Culver-croft* near the *Grange-farm*, being the encloſure where the priory *pigeon-houſe* ſtood, from *culver* a pigeon. Again there are three ſteep paſtures in this pariſh called the *Lithe*, from *Hlithe*, *clivus*. The wicker-work that binds and faſtens down a hedge on the top is called *ether*, from *ether* an hedge. When the good women call their hogs they cry *ſic, ſic* *, not knowing that *ſic* is *Saxon*, or rather *Celtic*, for a hog. Coppice or bruſh wood our countrymen call *riſe*, from *bris*, frondes; and talk of a load of *riſe*. Within the author's memory the *Saxon* plurals, *houſen* and *peaſon*, were in common uſe. But it would be endleſs to inſtance in every circumſtance: he that wiſhes for more ſpecimens muſt frequent a farmer's kitchen. I have therefore ſelected ſome words to ſhew how familiar the *Saxon* dialect was to this diſtrict, ſince in more than ſeven hundred years it is far from being obliterated.

[l] *Well-head* ſignifies *ſpring-head*, and not a deep pit from whence we draw water. For particulars about which ſee Letter I. to Mr. *Pennant*.

* Συαα, porcus, apud *Laconas*; un Porceau chez les *Lacèdemoniens*: ce mot a ſans doute eſté pris des *Celtes*, qui diſcent *ſic*, pour marquer un perceau. Encore aujour'huy quand les *Bretons* chaſſent ces animaux, ils ne diſent point autrement, que *ſic, ſic*.

Antiquitè de la Nation, et de la Langue des Celtes, par Pezeron.

was

was laid out by ſome of our earlieſt *Norman* kings, who were exceedingly attached to the pleaſures of the chaſe, and reſided much at *Wincheſter*, which lies at a moderate diſtance from this diſtrict. The *Plantagenet* princes ſeem to have been pleaſed with *Woolmer*; for tradition ſays that king *John* reſided juſt upon the verge, at *Ward-le-ham*, on a regular and remarkable mount, ſtill called *King John's Hill* and *Lodge Hill*; and *Edward* III. had a chapel in his park, or encloſure, at *Kingſley*[l]. *Humphrey*, duke of *Glouceſter*, and *Richard*, duke of *York*, ſay my evidences, were both, in their turns, *wardens* of *Woolmer-foreſt*; which ſeems to have ſerved for an appointment for the younger princes of the royal family, as it may again.

I have intentionally mentioned *Edward* III. and the dukes *Humphrey* and *Richard*, before king *Edward* II. becauſe I have reſerved, for the entertainment of my readers, a pleaſant anecdote reſpecting that prince, with which I ſhall cloſe this letter.

As *Edward* II. was hunting on *Woolmer-foreſt*, *Morris Ken*, of the kitchen, fell from his horſe ſeveral times; at which accidents the king laughed immoderately: and, when the chaſe was over, ordered him twenty ſhillings[m]; an enormous ſum for thoſe days! Proper allowances ought to be made for the youth of this monarch, whoſe ſpirits alſo, we may ſuppoſe, were much exhilarated by the ſport of the day: but, at the ſame time, it is reaſonable to remark

[l] The pariſh of *Kingſley* lies between, and divides *Woolmer-foreſt* from *Ayles Holt-foreſt*. See Letter IX. to Mr. *Pennant*.

[m] "Item, paid at the lodge at *Woolmer*, when the king was ſtag-hunting there, to *Morris Ken*, of the kitchen, becauſe he rode before the king and often fell from his horſe, at which the king laughed exceedingly — a gift, by command, of twenty ſhillings."

A MSS. in poſſeſſion of *Thomas Aſtle*, eſq. containing the private expenſes of *Edward* II.

that, whatever might be the occaſion of *Ken*'s firſt fall, the ſubſequent ones ſeem to have been deſigned. The ſcullion appears to have been an artful fellow, and to have ſeen the king's foible; which furniſhes an early ſpecimen of that his eaſy ſoftneſs and facility of temper, of which the infamous *Gaveſton* took ſuch advantages, as brought innumerable calamities on the nation, and involved the prince at laſt in misfortunes and ſufferings too deplorable to be mentioned without horror and amazement.

LETTER III.

FROM the ſilence of *Domeſday* reſpecting churches, it has been ſuppoſed that few villages had any at the time when that record was taken; but *Selborne*, we ſee, enjoyed the benefit of one: hence we may conclude, that this place was in no abject ſtate even at that very diſtant period. How many fabrics have ſucceeded each other ſince the days of *Radfredrus* the *preſbyter*, we cannot pretend to ſay; our buſineſs leads us to a deſcription of the preſent edifice, in which we ſhall be circumſtantial.

Our church, which was dedicated to the *Virgin Mary*, conſiſts of three aiſles, and meaſures fifty-four feet in length by forty-ſeven in breadth, being almoſt as broad as it is long. The preſent building has no pretenſions to antiquity; and is, as I ſuppoſe, of no earlier date than the beginning of the reign of *Henry* VII.

It

J. Mazell Sculp.

J. H. Green Del.

A South View of SELBORNE CHURCH.

Published Nov. 1. 1791, as the Act directs, by B. White & Son.

It is perfectly plain and unadorned, without painted glaſs, carved work, ſculpture, or tracery. But when I ſay it has no claim to antiquity, I would mean to be underſtood of the fabric in general; for the pillars which ſupport the roof are undoubtedly old, being of that low, ſquat, thick order, uſually called *Saxon*. Theſe, I ſhould imagine, upheld the roof of a former church, which, falling into decay, was rebuilt on thoſe maſſy props, becauſe their ſtrength had preſerved them from the injuries of time [n]. Upon theſe reſt blunt *gothic* arches, ſuch as prevailed in the reign abovementioned, and by which, as a criterion, we would prove the date of the building.

At the bottom of the ſouth aile, between the weſt and ſouth doors, ſtands the font, which is deep and capacious, and conſiſts of three maſſy round ſtones, piled one on another, without the leaſt ornament or ſculpture: the cavity at the top is lined with lead, and has a pipe at bottom to convey off the water after the ſacred ceremony is performed.

The eaſt end of the ſouth aile is called the *South Chancel*, and, till within theſe thirty years, was divided off by old carved *gothic* framework of timber, having been a private chantry. In this opinion we are more confirmed by obſerving two *gothic* niches within the ſpace, the one in the eaſt wall and the other in the ſouth, near which there probably ſtood images and altars.

In the middle aile there is nothing remarkable; but I remember when it's beams were hung with garlands in honour of

[n] In the ſame manner, to compare great things with ſmall, did *Wykeham*, when he new-built the cathedral at *Wincheſter*, from the tower weſtward, apply to his purpoſe the old piers or pillars of Biſhop *Walkelin*'s church, by blending *Saxon* and *Gothic* architecture together. See *Lowth*'s Life of Wykeham.

young women of the parish, reputed to have died virgins; and recollect to have seen the clerk's wife cutting, in white paper, the resemblances of gloves, and ribbons to be twisted into knots and roses, to decorate these memorials of chastity. In the church of *Faringdon*, which is the next parish, many garlands of this sort still remain.

The north aile is narrow and low, with a sloping ceiling, reaching within eight or nine feet of the floor. It had originally a flat roof covered with lead, till, within a century past, a churchwarden stripping off the lead, in order, as he said, to have it mended, sold it to a plumber, and ran away with the money. This aile has no door, for an obvious reason; because the north-side of the church-yard, being surrounded by the vicarage-garden, affords no path to that side of the church. Nothing can be more irregular than the pews of this church, which are of all dimensions and heights, being patched up according to the fancy of the owners: but whoever nicely examines them will find that the middle aile had, on each side, a regular row of benches of solid oak, all alike, with a low back-board to each. These we should not hesitate to say are coeval with the present church: and especially as it is to be observed that, at their ends, they are ornamented with carved blunt *gothic* niches, exactly correspondent to the arches of the church, and to a niche in the south wall. The south aile also has a row of these benches; but some are decayed through age, and the rest much disguised by modern alterations.

At the upper end of this aile, and running out to the north, stands a transept, known by the name of the *North Chancel*, measuring twenty-one feet from south to north, and nineteen feet from east to west: this was intended, no doubt, as a private chantry; and was also, till of late, divided off by a *gothic* frame-

work

work of timber. In its north wall, under a very blunt *gothic* arch, lies perhaps the founder of this edifice, which, from the ſhape of its arch, may be deemed no older than the latter end of the reign of *Henry* VII. The tomb was examined ſome years ago, but contained nothing except the ſcull and thigh-bones of a large tall man, and the bones of a youth or woman, lying in a very irregular manner, without any eſcutcheon or other token to aſcertain the names or rank of the deceaſed. The grave was very ſhallow, and lined with ſtone at the bottom and on the ſides.

From the eaſt wall project four ſtone brackets, which I conclude ſupported images and crucifixes. In the great thick pilaſter, jutting out between this tranſept and the chancel, there is a very ſharp *gothic* niche, of older date than the preſent chantry or church. But the chief pieces of antiquity are two narrow ſtone coffin-lids, which compoſe part of the floor, and lie from weſt to eaſt, with the very narrow ends eaſtward: theſe belong to remote times; and, if originally placed here, which I doubt, muſt have been part of the pavement of an older tranſept. At preſent there are no coffins under them, whence I conclude they have been removed to this place from ſome part of a former church. One of theſe lids is ſo eaten by time, that no ſculpture can be diſcovered upon it; or, perhaps, it may be the wrong ſide uppermoſt; but on the other, which ſeems to be of ſtone of a cloſer and harder texture, is to be diſcerned a *diſcus*, with a croſs on it, at the end of a ſtaff or rod, the well-known ſymbol of a *Knight-Templar* [o].

This order was diſtinguiſhed by a red croſs on the left ſhoulder of their cloak, and by this attribute in their hand. Now, if theſe

[o] See *Dugdale, Monaſticon Anglicanum*, Vol. II. where there is a fine engraving of a *Knight-Templar*, by *Hollar*.

ſtones

ſtones belonged to *Knights Templars*, they muſt have lain here many centuries; for this order came into England early in the reign of king *Stephen* in 1113; and was diſſolved in the time of *Edward* II. in 1312, having ſubſiſted only one hundred and ninety-nine years. Why I ſhould ſuppoſe that *Knights Templars* were occaſionally buried at this church, will appear in ſome future letter, when we come to treat more particularly concerning the property they poſſeſſed here, and the intercourſe that ſubſiſted between them and the *priors* of *Selborne*.

We muſt now proceed to the chancel, properly ſo called, which ſeems to be coeval with the church, and is in the ſame plain unadorned ſtyle, though neatly kept. This room meaſures thirty-one feet in length, and ſixteen feet and an half in breadth, and is wainſcoted all round, as high as to the bottom of the windows. The ſpace for the communion table is raiſed two ſteps above the reſt of the floor, and railed in with oaken baluſters. Here I ſhall ſay ſomewhat of the windows of the chancel in particular, and of the whole fabric in general. They are moſtly of that ſimple and unadorned ſort called *Lancet*, ſome ſingle, ſome double, and ſome in triplets. At the eaſt end of the chancel are two of a moderate ſize, near each other; and in the north wall two very diſtant ſmall ones, unequal in length and height: and in the ſouth wall are two, one on each ſide of the chancel door, that are broad and ſquat, and of a different order. At the eaſt end of the ſouth aile of the church there is a large lancet-window in a triplet; and two very ſmall, narrow, ſingle ones in the ſouth wall, and a broad ſquat window beſide, and a double lancet one in the weſt end; ſo that the appearance is very irregular. In the north aile are two windows, made ſhorter when the roof was ſloped; and in the north tranſept a large triple window, ſhortened

at

at the time of a repair in 1721; when over it was opened a round one of conſiderable ſize, which affords an agreeable light, and renders that chantry the moſt cheerful part of the edifice.

The church and chancels have all coved roofs, ceiled about the year 1683; before which they were open to the tiles and ſhingles, ſhowing the naked rafters, and threatening the congregation with the fall of a ſpar, or a blow from a piece of looſe mortar.

On the north wall of the chancel is fixed a large oval white marble monument, with the following inſcription; and at the foot of the wall, over the deceaſed, and inſcribed with his name, age, arms, and time of death, lies a large ſlab of black marble:

Propè hunc parietem ſepelitur
GILBERTUS WHITE, SAMSONIS WHITE, de
Oxon. militis filius tertius, Collegii Magdale-
-nenſis ibidem alumnus, & ſocius. Tandem faven-
-te collegio ad hanc eccleſiam promotus; ubi primæ-
-vâ morum ſimplicitate, et diffusâ erga omnes bene-
-volentiâ feliciter conſenuit.
Paſtor fidelis, comis, affabilis,
Maritus, et pater amantiſſimus,
A conjuge invicem, et liberis, atque
A parochianis impensé dilectus.
Pauperibus ita beneficus
ut decimam partem cenſûs
moribundus
piis uſibus conſecravit.
Meritis demum juxta et annis plenus
ex hac vitâ migravit Feb. 13°.
anno ſaluti's 172⅞
Ætatis ſuæ 77.
Hoc poſuit Rebecca
Conjux illius mæſtiſſima,
mox ſecutura.

On

On the ſame wall is newly fixed a ſmall ſquare table-monument of white marble, inſcribed in the following manner.

Sacred to the memory
of the Rev^d. ANDREW ETTY, B. D.
23 Years Vicar of this pariſh:
In whoſe character
The conjugal, the parental, and the ſacerdotal virtues
were ſo happily combined
as to deſerve the imitation of mankind.
And if in any particular he followed more invariably
the ſteps of his bleſſed Maſter,
It was in his humility,
His pariſhioners,
eſpecially the ſick and neceſſitous,
as long as any traces of his memory ſhall remain,
muſt lament his death.
To perpetuate ſuch an example, this ſtone is erected;
as while living he was a preacher of righteouſneſs,
ſo, by it, he being dead yet ſpeaketh.
He died April 8^th. 1784. aged 66 years.

LETTER

LETTER IV.

WE have now taken leave of the inſide of the church, and ſhall paſs by a door at the weſt end of the middle aile into the belfry. This room is part of a handſome ſquare embattled tower of forty-five feet in height, and of much more modern date than the church; but old enough to have needed a thorough repair in 1781, when it was neatly ſtuccoed at a conſiderable expenſe, by a ſet of workmen who were employed on it for the greateſt part of the ſummer. The old bells, three in number, loud and out of tune, were taken down in 1735, and caſt into four; to which *Sir Simeon Stuart*, the grandfather of the preſent baronet, added a fifth at his own expenſe: and, beſtowing it in the name of his favourite daughter Mrs. *Mary Stuart*, cauſed it to be caſt with the following motto round it:

> "Clara puella dedit, dixitque mihi eſto Maria:
> "Illius et laudes nomen ad aſtra ſono."

The day of the arrival of this tuneable peal was obſerved as an high feſtival by the village, and rendered more joyous, by an order from the donor, that the treble-bell ſhould be fixed bottom upward in the ground, and filled with punch, of which all preſent were permitted to partake.

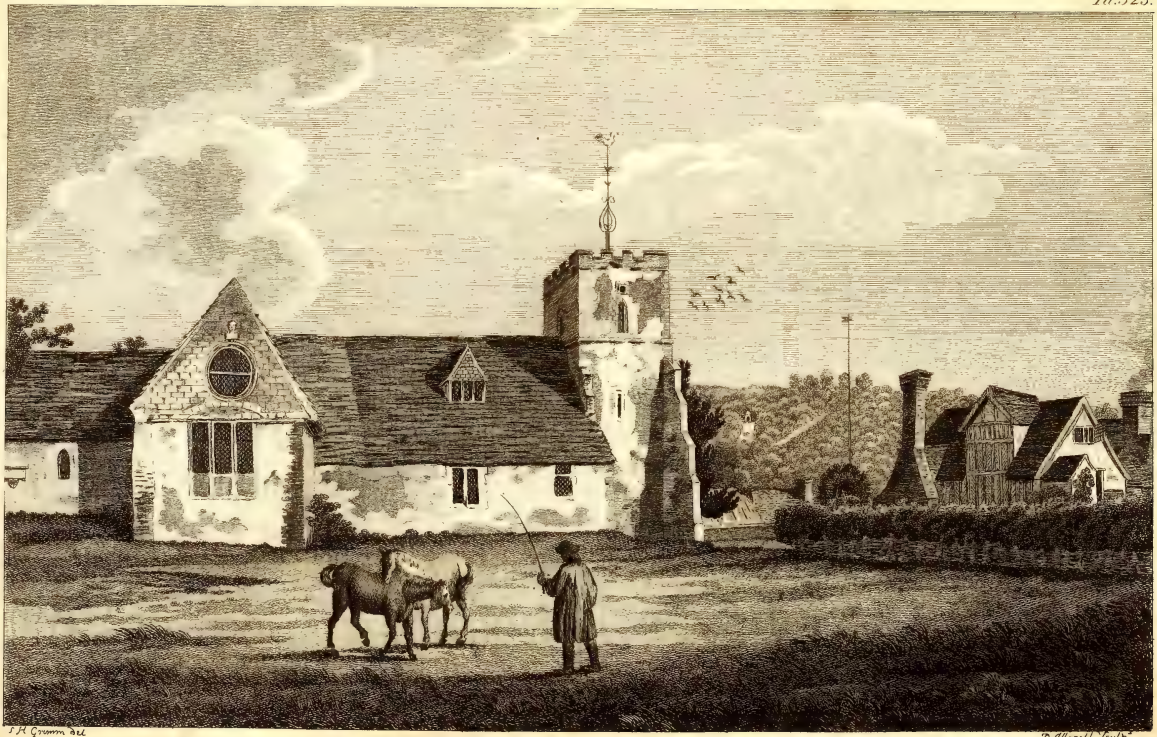
The porch of the church, to the ſouth, is modern, and would not be worthy attention did it not ſhelter a fine ſharp *gothic* door-way. This is undoubtedly much older than the preſent fabric; and,

being found in good preſervation, was worked into the wall, and is the grand entrance into the church: nor are the folding-doors to be paſſed over in ſilence; ſince, from their thick and clumſy ſtructure, and the rude flouriſhed-work of their hinges, they may poſſibly be as ancient as the door-way itſelf.

The whole roof of the ſouth aile, and the ſouth-ſide of the roof of the middle aile, is covered with oaken ſhingles inſtead of tiles, on account of their lightneſs, which favours the ancient and crazy timber-frame. And, indeed, the conſideration of accidents by fire excepted, this ſort of roofing is much more eligible than tiles. For ſhingles well ſeaſoned, and cleft from quartered timber, never warp, nor let in drifting ſnow; nor do they ſhiver with froſt; nor are they liable to be blown off, like tiles; but, when well nailed down, laſt for a long period, as experience has ſhown us in this place, where thoſe that face to the north are known to have endured, untouched, by undoubted tradition for more than a century.

Conſidering the ſize of the church, and the extent of the pariſh, the church-yard is very ſcanty; and eſpecially as all wiſh to be buried on the ſouth-ſide, which is become ſuch a maſs of mortality that no perſon can be there interred without diſturbing or diſplacing the bones of his anceſtors. There is reaſon to ſuppoſe that it once was larger, and extended to what is now the vicarage court and garden; becauſe many human bones have been dug up in thoſe parts ſeveral yards without the preſent limits. At the eaſt end are a few graves; yet none till very lately on the north-ſide but, as two or three families of beſt repute have begun to bury in that quarter, prejudice may wear out by degrees, and their example be followed by the reſt of the neighbourhood.

In



J. H. Grimm del.

P. Mazell Sculp.

North View of SELBORNE CHURCH.

Published Nov.r 1, 1791, as the Act directs, by B. White & Son.

In ſpeaking of the church, I have all along talked of the eaſt and weſt-end, as if the chancel ſtood exactly true to thoſe points of the compaſs; but this is by no means the caſe, for the fabric bears ſo much to the north of the eaſt that the four corners of the tower, and not the four ſides, ſtand to the four cardinal points. The beſt method of accounting for this deviation ſeems to be, that the workmen, who probably were employed in the longeſt days, endeavoured to ſet the chancels to the riſing of the ſun.

Cloſe by the church, at the weſt end, ſtands the vicarage-houſe; an old, but roomy and convenient edifice. It faces very agreeably to the morning ſun, and is divided from the village by a neat and cheerful court. According to the manner of old times, the hall was open to the roof; and ſo continued, probably, till the vicars became family-men, and began to want more conveniencies; when they flung a floor acroſs, and, by partitions, divided the ſpace into chambers. In this hall we remember a date, ſome time in the reign of *Elizabeth*; it was over the door that leads to the ſtairs.

Behind the houſe is a garden of an irregular ſhape, but well laid out; whoſe terrace commands ſo romantic and pictureſque a proſpect, that the firſt maſter in landſcape might contemplate it with pleaſure, and deem it an object well worthy of his pencil.

LETTER V.

In the church-yard of this village is a *yew-tree*, whoſe aſpect beſpeaks it to be of a great age: it ſeems to have ſeen ſeveral centuries, and is probably coeval with the church, and therefore may be deemed an antiquity: the body is ſquat, ſhort, and thick, and meaſures twenty-three feet in the girth, ſupporting an head of ſuitable extent to it's bulk. This is a male tree, which in the ſpring ſheds clouds of duſt, and fills the atmoſphere around with it's farina.

As far as we have been able to obſerve, the males of this ſpecies become much larger than the females; and it has ſo fallen out that moſt of the yew-trees in the church-yards of this neighbourhood are males: but this muſt have been matter of mere accident, ſince men, when they firſt planted yews, little dreamed that there were ſexes in trees.

In a yard, in the midſt of the ſtreet, till very lately grew a middle-ſized female tree of the ſame ſpecies, which commonly bore great crops of berries. By the high winds uſually prevailing about the autumnal equinox, theſe berries, then ripe, were blown down into the road, where the hogs ate them. And it was very remarkable, that, though barrow-hogs and young ſows found no inconvenience from this food, yet milch-ſows often died after ſuch a repaſt: a circumſtance that can be accounted for only by ſuppoſing that the latter, being much exhauſted and hungry, devoured a larger quantity.

While

While mention is making of the bad effects of yew-berries, it may be proper to remind the unwary that the twigs and leaves of yew, though eaten in a very ſmall quantity, are certain death to horſes and cows, and that in a few minutes. An horſe tied to a yew-hedge, or to a faggot-ſtack of dead yew, ſhall be found dead before the owner can be aware that any danger is at hand: and the writer has been ſeveral times a ſorrowful witneſs to loſſes of this kind among his friends; and in the iſland of *Ely* had once the mortification to ſee nine young ſteers or bullocks of his own all lying dead in an heap from browzing a little on an hedge of yew in an old garden, into which they had broken in ſnowy weather. Even the clippings of a yew-hedge have deſtroyed a whole dairy of cows when thrown inadvertently into a yard. And yet ſheep and turkies, and, as park-keepers ſay, deer, will crop theſe trees with impunity.

Some intelligent perſons aſſert that the branches of yew, while *green*, are not noxious; and that they will kill only when *dead* and *withered*, by lacerating the ſtomach: but to this aſſertion we cannot by any means aſſent, becauſe, among the number of cattle that we have known fall victims to this deadly food, not one has been found, when it was opened, but had a lump of *green* yew in it's paunch. True it is, that yew-trees ſtand for twenty years or more in a field, and no bad conſequences enſue: but at ſome time or other cattle, either from wantonneſs when full, or from hunger when empty, (from both which circumſtances we have ſeen them periſh) will be meddling, to their certain deſtruction; the yew ſeems to be a very improper tree for a paſture-field.

Antiquaries ſeem much at a loſs to determine at what period this tree firſt obtained a place in church-yards. A ſtatute paſſed A. D. 1307 and 35 *Edward* I. the title of which is "Ne rector

"arbores

"arbores in cemeterio proſternat." Now if it is recollected that we ſeldom ſee any other very large or ancient tree in a church-yard but yews, this ſtatute muſt have principally related to this ſpecies of tree; and conſequently their being planted in church-yards is of much more ancient date than the year 1307.

As to the uſe of theſe trees, poſſibly the more reſpectable pariſhioners were buried under their ſhade before the improper cuſtom was introduced of burying within the body of the church, where the living are to aſſemble. *Deborah*, *Rebekah*'s nurſe [q], was buried under an oak; the moſt honourable place of interment probably next to the cave of *Machpelah* [r], which ſeems to have been appropriated to the remains of the patriarchal family alone.

The farther uſe of yew-trees might be as a ſcreen to churches, by their thick foliage, from the violence of winds; perhaps alſo for the purpoſe of archery, the beſt long bows being made of that material: and we do not hear that they are planted in the church-yards of other parts of *Europe*, where long bows were not ſo much in uſe. They might alſo be placed as a ſhelter to the congregation aſſembling before the church-doors were opened, and as an emblem of mortality by their funereal appearance. In the ſouth of *England* every church-yard almoſt has it's tree, and ſome two; but in the north, we underſtand, few are to be found.

The idea of R. C. that the *yew-tree* afforded it's branches inſtead of palms for the proceſſions on *Palm-Sunday*, is a good one, and deſerves attention. See Gent. Mag. Vol. L. p. 128.

[q] Gen. xxxv, 8. [r] Gen. xxiii, 9.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

THE living of *Selborne* was a very ſmall vicarage; but, being in the patronage of *Magdalen-college*, in the univerſity of *Oxford*, that ſociety endowed it with the great tithes of *Selborne*, more than a century ago: and ſince the year 1758 again with the great tithes of *Oakhanger*, called *Bene's parſonage:* ſo that, together, it is become a reſpectable piece of preferment, to which one of the fellows is always preſented. The vicar holds the great tithes, by leaſe, under the college. The great diſadvantage of this living is, that it has not one foot of glebe near home [s].

ITS PAYMENTS ARE,	£.	s.	d.
King's books — — — —	8	2	1
Yearly tenths — — — —	0	16	2½
Yearly procurations for *Blackmore* and *Oakhanger Chap:* with acquit: — —	0	1	7
Selborne procurations and acquit: — —	0	9	0

I am unable to give a complete liſt of the vicars of this pariſh till towards the end of the reign of queen *Elizabeth*; from which period the regiſters furniſh a regular ſeries.

In *Domeſday* we find thus — "De iſto manerio dono dedit Rex "*Radfredo* preſbytero dimidiam hidam cum eccleſia." So that before *Domeſday*, which was compiled between the years 1081 and 1086, here was an officiating miniſter at this place.

[s] At *Bene's*, or *Bin's*, *parſonage* there is a houſe and ſtout barn, and ſeven acres of glebe: *Bene's* parſonage is three miles from the church.

After

After this, among my documents, I find occaſional mention of a vicar here and there: the firſt is

Roger, inſtituted in 1254.

In 1410 *John Lynne* was vicar of *Selborne*.

In 1411 *Hugo Tybbe* was vicar.

The preſentations to the vicarage of *Selborne* generally ran in the name of the prior and the convent; but *Tybbe* was preſented by prior *John Wynecheſtre* only.

June 29, 1528, *William Fiſher*, vicar of *Selborne*, reſigned to *Miles Peyrſon*.

1594, *William White* appears to have been vicar to this time. Of this perſon there is nothing remarkable, but that he hath made a regular entry twice in the regiſter of *Selborne* of the funeral of *Thomas Cowper*, biſhop of *Wincheſter*, as if he had been buried at *Selborne*; yet this learned prelate, who died 1594, was buried at *Wincheſter*, in the cathedral, near the epiſcopal throne[t].

1595, *Richard Boughton*, vicar.

1596, *William Inkforbye*, vicar.

May 1606, *Thomas Phippes*, vicar.

June 1631, *Ralph Auſtine*, vicar.

July 1632, *John Longworth*. This unfortunate gentleman, living in the time of *Cromwell*'s uſurpation, was deprived of his preferment for many years, probably becauſe he would not take the league and covenant: for I obſerve that his father-in-law, the Reverend *Jethro Beal*, rector of *Faringdon*, which is the next pariſh, enjoyed his benefice during the whole of that unhappy period. *Longworth*, after he was diſpoſſeſſed, retired to a little tenement about one hundred and fifty yards from the church, where he earned a

[t] See *Godwin* de præſulibus, folio *Cant.* 1743, page 239.

ſmall

ſmall pittance by the practice of phyſic. During thoſe diſmal times it was not uncommon for the depoſed clergy to take up a medical character; as was the caſe in particular, I know, with the Reverend Mr. *Yalden*, rector of *Compton*, near *Guildford*, in the county of *Surrey*. Vicar *Longworth* uſed frequently to mention to his ſons, who told it to my relations, that, the *Sunday* after his deprivation, his puritanical ſucceſſor ſtepped into the pulpit with no ſmall petulance and exultation; and began his ſermon from *Pſalm* xx. 8. "*They are brought down and fallen; but we are riſen* "*and ſtand upright.*" This perſon lived to be reſtored in 1660, and continued vicar for eighteen years; but was ſo impoveriſhed by his misfortunes, that he left the vicarage-houſe and premiſes in a very abject and dilapidated ſtate.

July 1678. *Richard Byfield*, who left eighty pounds by will, the intereſt to be applied to apprentice out poor children: but this money, lent on private ſecurity, was in danger of being loſt, and the bequeſt remained in an unſettled ſtate for near twenty years, till 1700; ſo that little or no advantage was derived from it. About the year 1759 it was again in the utmoſt danger by the failure of a borrower; but, by prudent management, has ſince been raiſed to one hundred pounds ſtock in the three per cents reduced. The truſtees are the vicar and the renters or owners of *Temple*, *Priory*, *Grange*, *Blackmore*, and *Oakhanger-houſe*, for the time being. This gentleman ſeemed inclined to have put the vicarial premiſes in a comfortable ſtate; and began, by building a ſolid ſtone wall round the front-court, and another in the lower yard, between that and the neighbouring garden; but was interrupted by death from fulfilling his laudable intentions.

April, 1680, *Barnabas Long* became vicar.

June 1681. This living was now in ſuch low eſtimation in *Magdalen-college* that it deſcended to a junior fellow, *Gilbert White*, M. A. who was inſtituted to it in the thirty-firſt year of his age. At his firſt coming he ceiled the chancel, and alſo floored and wainſcoted the parlour and hall, which before were paved with ſtone, and had naked walls; he enlarged the kitchen and brewhouſe, and dug a cellar and well: he alſo built a large new barn in the lower yard, removed the hovels in the front court, which he laid out in walks and borders; and entirely planned the back garden, before a rude field with a ſtone-pit in the midſt of it. By his will he gave and bequeathed "the ſum of forty pounds to be laid "out in the moſt neceſſary repairs of the church; that is, in "ſtrengthening and ſecuring ſuch parts as ſeem decaying and "dangerous." With this ſum two large buttreſſes were erected to ſupport the eaſt end of the ſouth wall of the church; and the gable-end wall of the weſt end of the ſouth aile was new built from the ground.

By his will alſo he gave "One hundred pounds to be laid "out on lands; the yearly rents whereof ſhall be employed in "teaching the poor children of *Selbourn* pariſh to read and write, "and ſay their prayers and catechiſm, and to ſew and knit:—"and be under the direction of his executrix as long as ſhe "lives; and, after her, under the direction of ſuch of his "children and their iſſue, as ſhall live in or within five miles "of the ſaid pariſh: and on failure of any ſuch, then under the "direction of the vicar of *Selbourn* for the time being; but ſtill "to the uſes above-named." With this ſum was purchaſed, of *Thomas Turville*, of *Hawkeley*, in the county of *Southampton*, yeoman, and *Hannah* his wife, *two cloſes* of freehold land, commonly called *Collier*'s, containing, by eſtimation, *eleven* acres, lying in *Hawkeley* aforeſaid.

aforeſaid. Theſe cloſes are let at this time, 1785, on leaſe, at the rate of three pounds by the year.

This vicar alſo gave by will *two hundred pounds* towards the repairs of the highways[u] in the pariſh of *Selborne*. That ſum was carefully and judiciouſly laid out in the ſummer of the year 1730, by his ſon *John White*, who made a ſolid and firm cauſey from *Rood-green*, all down *Honey-lane*, to a farm called *Oak-woods*, where the ſandy ſoil begins. This miry and gulfy lane was choſen as worthy of repair, becauſe it leads to the foreſt, and thence through the *Holt* to the town of *Farnham* in *Surrey*, the only market in thoſe days for men who had wheat to ſell in this neighbourhood. This cauſey was ſo deeply bedded with ſtone, ſo properly raiſed above the level of the ſoil, and ſo well drained, that it has, in ſome degree, withſtood fifty-four years of neglect and abuſe; and might, with moderate attention, be rendered a ſolid and comfortable road. The ſpace from *Rood-green* to *Oak-woods* meaſures about three quarters of a mile.

In 1727, *William Henry Cane*, B. D. became vicar; and, among ſeveral alterations and repairs, new-built the back front of the vicarage-houſe.

On *February* 1, 1740, *Duncombe Briſtowe*, D. D. was inſtituted to this living. What benefactions this vicar beſtowed on the pariſh will be beſt explained by the following paſſages from his will:—"*Item*, I hereby give and bequeath to the miniſter and church-"wardens of the pariſh of *Selbourn*, in the county of *Southampton*, "a mahogany table, which I have ordered to be made for the "celebration of the Holy Communion; and alſo the ſum of

[u] "Such legacies were very common in former times, before any effectual laws were "made for the repairs of highways," Sir John Cullum's Hawſted. p. 15.

" thirty pounds, in truſt, to be applied in manner following; that " is, ten pounds towards the charge of erecting a gallery at the " weſt end of the church; and ten pounds to be laid out for " cloathing, and ſuch like neceſſaries, among the poor (and " eſpecially among the ancient and infirm) of the ſaid pariſh: " and the remaining ten pounds to be diſtributed in bread, at " twenty ſhillings a week, at the diſcretion of *John White*, eſq. " or any of his family, who ſhall be reſident in the ſaid pariſh."

On *November* 12, 1758, *Andrew Etty*, B. D. became vicar. Among many uſeful repairs he new-roofed the body of the vicarage-houſe; and wainſcoted, up to the bottom of the windows, the whole of the chancel; to the neatneſs and decency of which he always paid the moſt exact attention.

On *September* 25, 1784, *Chriſtopher Taylor*, B. D. was inducted into the vicarage of *Selborne*.

LETTER

LETTER VII.

I SHALL now proceed to the *Priory*, which is undoubtedly the moſt intereſting part of our hiſtory.

The *Priory* of *Selborne* was founded by *Peter de la Roche*, or *de Rupibus*[x], one of thoſe accompliſhed foreigners that reſorted to the court of king *John*, where they were uſually careſſed, and met with a more favourable reception than ought, in prudence, to have been ſhown by any monarch to ſtrangers. This adventurer was a *Poictevin* by birth, had been bred to arms in his youth, and diſtinguiſhed by knighthood. Hiſtorians all agree not to ſpeak very favourably of this remarkable man; they allow that he was poſſeſſed of courage and fine abilities, but then they charge him with arbitrary principles, and violent conduct. By his inſinuating manners he ſoon roſe high in the favour of *John*; and in 1205, early in the reign of that prince, was appointed biſhop of *Winchester*. In 1214 he became lord chief juſticiary of *England*, the firſt magiſtrate in the ſtate, and a kind of viceroy, on whom depended all the civil affairs in the kingdom. After the death of *John*, and during the minority of his ſon *Henry*, this prelate took upon him the entire management of the realm, and was ſoon appointed protector of the king and kingdom.

[x] See *Godwin* de Præſulibus Anglia. Folio. London, 1743. p. 217.

The

The barons ſaw with indignation a ſtranger poſſeſſed of all the power and influence, to part of which they thought they had a claim; they therefore entered into an aſſociation againſt him, and determined to wreſt ſome of that authority from him which he had ſo unreaſonably uſurped. The biſhop diſcerned the ſtorm at a diſtance; and, prudently reſolving to give way to that torrent of envy which he knew not how to withſtand, withdrew quietly to the Holy Land, where he reſided ſome time.

At this juncture a very ſmall part of *Paleſtine* remained in the hands of the Chriſtians: they had been by *Saladine* diſpoſſeſſed of *Jeruſalem*, and all the internal parts, near forty years before; and with difficulty maintained ſome maritime towns and garriſons: yet the buſy and enterpriſing ſpirit of *de Rupibus* could not be at reſt; he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by the ſplendour and magnificence of his expenſes, and amuſed his mind by ſtrengthening fortreſſes and caſtles, and by removing and endowing of churches. Before his expedition to the eaſt he had ſignalized himſelf as a founder of convents, and as a benefactor to hoſpitals and monaſteries.

In the year 1231 he returned again to *England*; and the very next year, in 1232, began to build and endow the PRIORY of SELBORNE. As this great work followed ſo cloſe upon his return, it is not improbable that it was the reſult of a vow made during his voyage; and eſpecially as it was dedicated to the *Virgin Mary*. Why the biſhop made choice of *Selborne* for the ſcene of his munificence can never be determined now: it can only be ſaid that the pariſh was in his diocefe, and lay almoſt midway between *Winchefter* and *Farnham*, or *South Waltham* and *Farnham*; from either of which places he could without much trouble overlook his workmen, and obſerve what progreſs they made; and that the ſituation was retired, with a ſtream running by it, and ſequeſtered

fequeſtered from the world, amidſt woods and meadows, and ſo far proper for the ſite of a religious houſe[y].

The firſt perſon with whom the founder treated about the purchaſe of land was *Jacobus de Achangre*, or *Ochangre*, a gentleman of property who reſided at that hamlet; and, as appears, at the houſe now called *Oakhanger-houſe*. With him he agreed for a croft, or little cloſe of land, known by the name of *La liega*, or *La lyge*, which was to be the immediate ſite of the *Priory*.

De Achangre alſo accommodated the biſhop at the ſame inſtant with three more adjoining crofts, which for a time was all the footing that this inſtitution obtained in the pariſh. The ſeller in the conveyance ſays "Warantizabimus, defendemus, et æquietabimus "*contra omnes gentes*;" *viz.* "We will warrant the thing ſold "againſt all claims from any quarter." In modern conveyancing this would be termed a covenant for *further aſſurance*. Afterwards is added — "Pro hac autem donacione, &c. dedit mihi pred. "Epiſcopus ſexdecem marcas argenti in *Gerſumam*:" i. e. "the "biſhop gave me ſixteen ſilver marks as a conſideration for the "thing purchaſed."

[y] The inſtitution at *Selborne* was a priory of *Black-Canons* of the order of *St. Auguſtine*, called alſo *Canons-Regular*. *Regular-Canons* were ſuch as lived in a conventual manner, under one roof, had a common refectory and dormitary, and were bound by vows to obſerve the rules and ſtatutes of their order: in fine, they were a kind of religious, whoſe diſcipline was leſs rigid than the *monks*. The chief rule of theſe *canons* was that of *St. Auguſtine*, who was conſtituted biſhop of *Hippo*, A. D. 395: but they were not brought into *England* till after the conqueſt; and ſeem not to have obtained the appellation of *Auguſtine canons* till ſome years after. Their habit was a long black *caſſock*, with a white *rocket* over it; and over that a black *cloak and hood*. The monks were always ſhaved: but theſe canons wore their hair and beards, and caps on their heads. There were of theſe *canons*, and women of the ſame order called *Canoneſſes*, about 175 houſes.

As

As the grant from *Jac. de Achangre* was without date [z], and the next is circumſtanced in the ſame manner, we cannot ſay exactly what interval there was between the two purchaſes; but we find that *Jacobus de Nortun*, a neighbouring gentleman, alſo ſoon ſold to the biſhop of *Wincheſter* ſome adjoining grounds, through which our ſtream paſſes, that the priory might be accommodated with a *mill*, which was a common neceſſary appendage to every manor: he alſo allowed acceſs to theſe lands by a road for carts and waggons.—" *Jacobus de Nortun* concedit *Petro Winton* epiſcopo totum " curſum aque que deſcèndit de *Molendino de Durton* uſq; ad " boſcum *Will. Manduit*, et croftam terre vocat: *Edriche croft*, " cum extenſione ejuſdem et abuttamentis; ad fundandam domum " religioſam de ordine *Sti. Auguſtini*. Concedit etiam viam ad " carros, et caretas," &c. This vale, down which runs the brook, is now called the *Long Lithe, or Lythe*. Bating the following particular expreſſion, this grant runs much in the ſtyle of the former; " Dedit mihi epiſcopus predictus triginta quinque " marcas argenti *ad me acquietandum verſus Judæos*."—that is, " the " biſhop advanced me thirty-five marks of ſilver to pay my debts " to the jews, who were then the only lenders of money."

Finding himſelf ſtill ſtreightened for room, the founder applied to his royal maſter, *Henry*, who was graciouſly pleaſed to beſtow certain lands in the manor at *Selborne* on the new priory of his favourite miniſter. Theſe grounds had been the property of *Stephen de Lucy*; and, abutting upon the narrow limits of the convent, became a very commodious and agreeable acquiſition. This grant, I find, was made on *March* the 9th, in the eighteenth year of *Henry*, *viz.* 1234, being two years after the foundation of the

[z] The cuſtom of affixing dates to deeds was not become general in the reign of *Henry* III.

monaſtery.

monaſtery. The royal donor beſtowed his favour with a good grace, by adding to it almoſt every immunity and privilege that could have been ſpecified in the law-language of the times.—"Quare volumus prior, &c. habeant totam terram, &c. cum "omnibus libertatibus in boſco et plano, in viis et ſemitis, pratis "et paſcuis; aquis et piſcariis; infra burgum, et extra burgum, "cum ſoka et ſaca, Thol et Them, Infangenethef et Utfangene-"thef, et hamſocne et blodwite, et pecunia que dari ſolet pro "murdro et forſtal, et flemeneſtrick, et cum quietancia de omni "ſcotto et geldo, et de omnibus auxiliis regum, vicecomitum, "et omn: miniſtralium ſuorum; et hidagio et exercitibus, et "ſcutagiis, et tallagiis, et ſhiris et hundredis, et placitis et "querelis, et warda et wardpeny, et opibus caſtellorum et pon-"tium, et clauſuris parcorum, et omni carcio et ſumagio, et "domor: regal: edificatione, et omnimoda reparatione, et cum "omnibus aliis libertatibus." This grant was made out by *Richard* biſhop of *Chicheſter*, then chancellor, at the town of *Northampton*, before the lord chief juſticiary, who was the founder himſelf.

The *charter* of foundation of the *Priory*, dated 1233, comes next in order to be conſidered; but being of ſome length, I ſhall not interrupt my narrative by placing it here; and therefore refer the reader to the Appendix, N° I. This my copy, taken from the original, I have compared with *Dugdale*'s copy, and find that they perfectly agree; except that in the latter the preamble and the names of the witneſſes are omitted. Yet I think it proper to quote a paſſage from this charter—"Et ipſa domus religioſa *a cujuſlibet* "*alterius domûs religioſæ ſubjectione libera* permaneat, et in omnibus "*abſoluta*"—to ſhew how much *Dugdale* was miſtaken when he inſerted *Selborne* among the *alien priories*; forgetting that this diſpoſition of the convent contradicted the grant that he had

 publiſhed.

publiſhed. In the *Monaſticon Anglicanum*, in Engliſh, p. 119, is part of his catalogue of *alien priories*, ſuppreſſed 2 *Henry* V. *viz.* 1414, where may be ſeen as follows,

S.
Sele, Suſſex.
SELEBURN.
Shirburn.

This appeared to me from the firſt to have been an overſight, before I had ſeen my authentic evidences. For *priories alien*, a few *conventual* ones excepted, were little better than *granges* to foreign abbies; and their priors little more than bailiffs, removeable at will: whereas the *priory* of *Selborne* poſſeſſed the valuable eſtates and manors of *Selborne*, *Achangre*, *Norton*, *Brompden*, *Baſſinges*, *Baſingſtoke*, and *Natele*; and the prior challenged the right of *Pillory*, *Thurcet*, and *Furcas*, and every manerial privilege.

I find next a grant from *Jo. de Venur*, or *Venuz*, to the prior of *Selborne*—" de tota mora [a moor or bog] ubi *Beme* oritur, uſque " ad campum vivarii, et de prato voc. *Sydenmeade* cum abutt: et " de curſu aque molendini." And alſo a grant in reverſion " unius virgate terre," [a yard land] in *Achangre* at the death of *Rickard Acledene* his ſiſter's huſband, who had no child. He was to preſent a pair of gloves of one penny value to the prior and canons, to be given annually by the ſaid *Richard*; and to quit all claim to the ſaid lands in reverſion, provided the prior and canons would engage annually to pay to the king, through the hands of his bailiffs of *Aulton*, ten ſhillings at four quarterly payments, " pro omnibus ſerviciis, conſuetudinibus, exactionibus, et " demandis."

This

This *Jo. de Venur* was a man of property at *Oakhanger*, and lived probably at the ſpot now called *Chapel-farm*. The grant bears date the 17th year of the reign of *Henry* III. [*viz.* 1233.]

It would be tedious to enumerate every little grant for lands or tenements that might be produced from my vouchers. I ſhall therefore paſs over all ſuch for the preſent, and conclude this letter with a remark that muſt ſtrike every thinking perſon with ſome degree of wonder. No ſooner had a monaſtic inſtitution got a footing, but the neighbourhood began to be touched with a ſecret and religious awe. Every perſon round was deſirous to promote ſo good a work; and either by ſale, by grant, or by gift in reverſion, was ambitious of appearing a benefactor. They who had not lands to ſpare gave roads to accommodate the infant foundation. The religious were not backward in keeping up this pious propenſity, which they obſerved ſo readily influenced the breaſts of men. Thus did the more opulent monaſteries add houſe to houſe, and field to field; and by degrees manor to manor: till at laſt "there was no place left;" but every diſtrict around became appropriated to the purpoſes of their founders, and every precinct was drawn into the vortex.

LETTER VIII.

OUR forefathers in this village were no doubt as buſy and buſtling, and as important, as ourſelves: yet have their names and tranſactions been forgotten from century to century, and have ſunk into oblivion; nor has this happened only to the vulgar, but even to men remarkable and famous in their generation. I was led into this train of thinking by finding in my vouchers that Sir *Adam Gurdon* was an inhabitant of *Selborne*, and a man of the firſt rank and property in the pariſh. By Sir *Adam Gurdon* I would be underſtood to mean that leading and accompliſhed malecontent in the *Mountfort* faction, who diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his daring conduct in the reign of *Henry* III. The firſt that we hear of this perſon in my papers is, that with two others he was bailiff of *Alton* before the ſixteenth of *Henry* III. *viz.* about 1231, and then not knighted. Who *Gurdon* was, and whence he came, does not appear: yet there is reaſon to ſuſpect that he was originally a mere ſoldier of fortune, who had raiſed himſelf by marrying women of property. The name of *Gurdon* does not ſeem to be known in the ſouth; but there is a name ſo like it in an adjoining kingdom, and which belongs to two or three noble families, that it is probable this remarkable perſon was a *North Briton*; and the more ſo, ſince the Chriſtian name of *Adam* is a diſtinguiſhed one to this day among the family of the *Gordons*.—But, be this as it may, Sir *Adam Gurdon* has been noticed by all the writers of *Engliſh* hiſtory for his bold diſpoſition and diſaffected ſpirit,

ſpirit, in that he not only figured during the ſucceſsful rebellion of *Leiceſter*, but kept up the war after the defeat and death of that baron's entrenching himſelf in the woods of *Hampſhire*, towards the town of *Farnham*. After the battle of *Eveſham*, in which *Mountfort* fell, in the year 1265, *Gurdon* might not think it ſafe to return to his houſe for fear of a ſurpriſe; but cautiouſly fortified himſelf amidſt the foreſts and woodlands with which he was ſo well acquainted. Prince *Edward*, deſirous of putting an end to the troubles which had ſo long haraſſed the kingdom, purſued the arch-rebel into his faſtneſſes; attacked his camp; leaped over the entrenchments; and, ſingling out *Gurdon*, ran him down, wounded him, and took him priſoner [a].

There is not perhaps in all hiſtory a more remarkable inſtance of command of temper, and magnanimity, than this before us: that a young prince, in the moment of victory, when he had the fell adverſary of the crown and royal family at his mercy, ſhould be able to withhold his hand from that vengeance which the vanquiſhed ſo well deſerved. A cowardly diſpoſition would have been blinded by reſentment: but this gallant heir-apparent ſaw at once a method of converting a moſt deſperate foe into a laſting friend. He raiſed the fallen veteran from the ground, he pardoned him, he admitted him into his confidence, and introduced him to the queen, then lying at *Guildford*, that very evening [a]. This unmerited and unexpected lenity melted the heart of the rugged *Gurdon* at once; he became in an inſtant a loyal and uſeful ſubject, truſted and employed in matters of moment by *Edward* when king, and confided in till the day of his death.

[a] M. Paris, p. 675. & Triveti Annale.

LETTER

LETTER IX.

It has been hinted in a former letter that Sir *Adam Gurdon* had availed himſelf by marrying women of property. By my evidences it appears that he had three wives, and probably in the following order: *Conſtantia*, *Ameria*, and *Agnes*. The firſt of theſe ladies, who was the companion of his middle life, ſeems to have been a perſon of conſiderable fortune, which ſhe inherited from *Thomas Makerel*, a gentleman of *Selborne*, who was either her father or uncle. The ſecond, *Ameria*, calls herſelf the quondam wife of Sir *Adam*, "quæ fui uxor," &c. and talks of her ſons under age. Now *Gurdon* had no ſon: and beſide *Agnes* in another document ſays, "Ego *Agnes* quondam uxor Domini *Adæ Gurdon* in pura et "ligea viduitate mea:" but *Gurdon* could not leave two widows; and therefore it ſeems probable that he had been divorced from *Ameria*, who afterwards married, and had ſons. By *Agnes* Sir *Adam* had a daughter *Johanna*, who was his heireſs, to whom *Agnes* in her life-time ſurrendered part of her jointure:—he had alſo a baſtard ſon.

Sir *Adam* ſeems to have inhabited the houſe now called *Temple*, lying about two miles eaſt of the church, which had been the property of *Thomas Makerel*.

In the year 1262 he petitioned the prior of *Selborne* in his own name, and that of his wife *Conſtantia* only, for leave to build him an *oratory* in his manor-houſe, "in curia ſua." Licenſes of this ſort were frequently obtained by men of fortune and rank from the biſhop of the dioceſe, the archbiſhop, and ſometimes, as I have ſeen

J. H. Grimm del. D. Lerpiniere sculp.

TEMPLE, in the Parish of SELBORNE.

Published Nov.r 1, 1791, as the Act directs, by B. White & Son, —

ſeen inſtances, from the pope; not only for convenience-ſake, and on account of diſtance, and the badneſs of the roads, but as a matter of ſtate and diſtinction. Why the owner ſhould apply to the *prior*, in preference to the *biſhop* of the *dioceſe*, and how the former became competent to ſuch a grant, I cannot ſay; but that the priors of *Selborne* did take that privilege is plain, becauſe ſome years afterward, in 1280, Prior *Richard* granted to *Henry Waterford* and his wife *Nicholaa* a licenſe to build an *oratory* in their court-houſe, "curia ſua *de Waterford*," in which they might celebrate divine ſervice, ſaving the rights of the mother church of *Baſynges*. Yet all the while the prior of *Selborne* grants with ſuch reſerve and caution, as if in doubt of his power, and leaves *Gurdon* and his lady anſwerable in future to the biſhop, or his ordinary, or to the vicar for the time being, in caſe they ſhould infringe the rights of the mother church of *Selborne*.

The manor-houſe called *Temple* is at preſent a ſingle building, running in length from ſouth to north, and has been occupied as a common farm houſe from time immemorial. The ſouth end is modern, and conſiſts of a brew-houſe, and then a kitchen. The middle part is an hall twenty-ſeven feet in length, and nineteen feet in breadth; and has been formerly open to the top; but there is now a floor above it, and alſo a chimney in the weſtern wall. The roofing conſiſts of ſtrong maſſive rafter-work ornamented with carved roſes. I have often looked for the *lamb* and *flag*, the arms of the *knights templars*, without ſucceſs; but in one corner found a a fox with a gooſe on his back, ſo coarſely executed, that it required ſome attention to make out the device.

Beyond the hall to the north is a ſmall parlour with a vaſt heavy ſtone chimney-piece; and, at the end of all, the *chapel* or *oratory*, whoſe maſſive thick walls and narrow windows at once beſpeak

great

great antiquity. This room is only ſixteen feet by ſixteen feet eight inches; and full ſeventeen feet nine inches in height. The ceiling is formed of vaſt joiſts, placed only five or ſix inches apart. Modern delicacy would not much approve of ſuch a place of worſhip: for it has at preſent much more the appearance of a dungeon than of a room fit for the reception of people of condition. For the outſide I refer the reader to the plate, in which Mr. *Grimm* has repreſented it with his uſual accuracy. The field on which this oratory abuts is ſtill called Chapel-field. The ſituation of this houſe is very particular, for it ſtands upon the immediate verge of a ſteep abrupt hill.

Not many years ſince this place was uſed for an hop-kiln, and was divided into two ſtories by a loft, part of which remains at preſent, and makes it convenient for peat and turf, with which it is ſtowed.

LETTER

The PLEYSTOW, vulg: the PLESTOR.

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LETTER X.

THE Priory at times was much obliged to *Gurdon* and his family. As *Sir Adam* began to advance in years he found his mind influenced by the prevailing opinion of the reasonableness and efficacy of prayers for the dead; and, therefore, in conjunction with his wife *Constantia*, in the year 1271, granted to the prior and convent of *Selborne* all his right and claim to a certain place, *placea*, called *La Pleystow*, in the village aforesaid, "in *liberam*, *puram*, et *per-*"*petuam elemosinam*." This *Pleystow* [b], *locus ludorum*, or play-place, is a level area near the church of about forty-four yards by thirty-six, and is known now by the name of the *Plestor* [c].

It continues still, as it was in old times, to be the scene of recreation for the youths and children of the neighbourhood; and impresses an idea on the mind that this village, even in *Saxon* times, could not be the most abject of places, when the inhabitants thought proper to assign so spacious a spot for the sports and amusements of it's young people [d].

[b] In *Saxon* Plegertop, or Plegrtop; viz. *Plegestow*, or *Plegstow*.

[c] At this juncture probably the vast oak, mentioned p. 5, was planted by the prior, as an ornament to his new acquired market place. According to this supposition the oak was aged 432 years when blown down.

[d] For more circumstances respecting the *Plestor*, see Letter II. to Mr. *Pennant*.

As ſoon as the prior became poſſeſſed of this piece of ground, he procured a charter for a *market*[e] from king *Henry* III. and began to erect houſes and ſtalls, "*feldas*," around it. From this period *Selborne* became a market town: but how long it enjoyed that privilege does not appear. At the ſame time *Gurdon* reſerved to himſelf, and his heirs, a way through the ſaid *Pleſtor* to a tenement and ſome crofts at the upper end, abutting on the ſouth corner of the church-yard. This was, in old days, the manerial houſe of the ſtreet manor, though now a poor cottage; and is known at preſent by the modern name of *Elliot's*. *Sir Adam* alſo did, for the health of his own ſoul, and that of his wife *Conſtantia*, their predeceſſors and ſucceſſors, grant to the prior and canons quiet poſſeſſion of all the tenements and gardens, "*curtillagia*," which they had built and laid out on the lands in *Selborne*, on which he and his vaſſals, "*homines*," had undoubted right of common: and moreover did grant to the convent the full privilege of that right of common; and empowered the religious to build tenements and make gardens along the king's highway in the village of *Selborne*.

From circumſtances put together it appears that the above were the firſt grants obtained by the Priory in the village of *Selborne*, after it had ſubſiſted about thirty-nine years: moreover they explain the nature of the mixed manor ſtill remaining in and about the village, where one field or tenement ſhall belong to *Magdalen-*

[e] Biſhop *Tanner*, in his *Notitia Monaſtica*, has made a miſtake reſpecting the *market* and *fair* at *Selborne*: for in his references to *Dodſworth*, cart. 54 *Hen.* III. m. 3. he ſays, "*De mercatu, et feria de Seleburn.*" But this reference is wrong; for, inſtead of *Seleburn*, it proves that the place there meant was *Lekeborne*, or *Legeborne*, in the county of *Lincoln*. This error was copied from the index of the Cat. MSS. Angl. It does not appear that there ever was a *chartered* fair at *Selborne*. For ſeveral particulars reſpecting the preſent fair at *Selborne* ſee Letter XXVI. of theſe Antiquities.

college

college in the univerſity of *Oxford*, and the next to *Norton Powlet*, eſq. of *Rotherfield* houſe; and ſo down the whole ſtreet. The caſe was, that the whole was once the property of *Gurdon*, till he made his grants to the convent; ſince which ſome belongs to the ſucceſſors of *Gurdon* in the manor, and ſome to the college; and this is the occaſion of the ſtrange jumble of property. It is remarkable that the tenement and crofts which Sir *Adam* reſerved at the time of granting the Pleſtor ſhould ſtill remain a part of the *Gurdon-manor*, though ſo deſirable an addition to the vicarage that is not as yet poſſeſſed of one inch of glebe at home: but of late, *viz.* in *January* 1785, *Magdalen-college* purchaſed that little eſtate, which is life-holding, in reverſion, for the generous purpoſe of beſtowing it, and it's lands, being twelve acres (three of which abut on the church-yard and vicarage-garden) as an improvement hereafter to the living, and an eligible advantage to future incumbents.

The year after *Gurdon* had beſtowed the *Pleſtor* on the Priory, *viz.* in 1272, *Henry* III. king of *England* died, and was ſucceeded by his ſon *Edward*. This magnanimous prince continued his regard for Sir *Adam*, whom he eſteemed as a brave man, and made him *warden*, "*cuſtos*," of the foreſt of *Wolmer*[f]. Though little emolument

[f] Since the letters reſpecting *Wolmer-foreſt* and *Ayles-holt*, from p. 14 to 26, were printed, the author has been favoured with the following extracts:

In the "Act of Reſumption, 1 Hen. VII." it was provided, that it be not prejudicial to "*Harry* at *Lode*, ranger of our foreſt of *Wolmere*, to him by oure letters patents "before tyme gevyn." Rolls of Parl. Vol. VI. p. 370.

In the 11 Hen. VII. 1495—"*Warlham* [Wardleham] and the office of foreſt [foreſter] of *Wolmere*" were held by *Edmund* duke of *Suffolk*.—Rolls, ib. 474.

Act of general pardon, 14 *Hen.* VIII. 1523, not to extend to "*Rich.* Bp. of *Wynton* "[biſhop *Fox*] for any ſeizure or forfeiture of liberties, &c. within the foreſt of *Wolmer*.

lument might hang to this appointment, yet are there reaſons why it might be highly acceptable; and, in a few reigns after, it was given to princes of the blood [g]. In old days gentry reſided more at home on their eſtates, and, having fewer reſources of elegant in-door amuſement, ſpent moſt of their leiſure hours in the field

" *Alyſholt*, and *Newe Foreſt*; nor to any perſon for waſte, &c. within the manor of *Ward-*
" *lam*, or pariſh of *Wardlam* [*Wardleham*]; nor to abuſing, &c. of any office or fee,
" within the ſaid foreſts of *Wolmer* or *Alyſholt*, or the ſaid park of *Wardlam*."—County
Suth't. Rolls prefixt to 1ſt Vol. of Journals of the Lords, p. xciii. b.

To theſe may be added ſome other particulars, taken from a book lately publiſhed, entitled " An Account of all the Manors, Meſſuages, Lands, &c. in the different " Counties of *England* and *Wales*, held by Leaſe from the Crown; as contained in the " Report of the Commiſſioners appointed to inquire into the State and Condition of the " Royal Foreſts," &c.——London, 1787.

" Southampton."

£. s. d.

P. 64, " A fee-farm rent of 31 2 11 out of the manors of Eaſt and Weſt " *Wardleham*; and alſo the office of *lieutenant* or *keeper* of the foreſt or chaſe of *Aliceholt* " and *Wolmer*, with all offices, fees, commodities, and privileges thereto belonging.

" Names of leſſees, *William* earl of *Dartmouth* and others (in truſt.)

" Date of the laſt leaſe, March 23, 1780; granted for ſuch term as would fill up the " ſubſiſting term to 31 years.

" Expiration March 23, 1811."

" Appendix, N°. III."

" Southampton."

" Hundreds—*Selborne* and *Finchdeane*."

" Honours and manors," &c.

" *Aliceholt* foreſt, three parks there.

" *Benſted* and *Kingſley*; a petition of the pariſhioners concerning the three parks in " *Aliceholt* foreſt."

William, firſt earl of *Dartmouth*, and paternal grandfather to the preſent lord *Stawel*, was a leſſee of the foreſts of *Aliceholt* and *Wolmer* before brigadier-general *Emanuel Scroope Howe*.

[g] See Letter II. of theſe Antiquities.

and

and the pleaſures of the chaſe. A large domain, therefore, at little more than a mile diſtance, and well ſtocked with game, muſt have been a very eligible acquiſition, affording him influence as well as entertainment; and eſpecially as the manerial houſe of *Temple*, by its exalted ſituation, could command a view of near two-thirds of the foreſt.

That *Gurdon*, who had lived ſome years the life of an outlaw, and at the head of an army of inſurgents, was, for a conſiderable time, in high rebellion againſt his ſovereign, ſhould have been guilty of ſome outrages, and ſhould have committed ſome depredations, is by no means matter of wonder. Accordingly we find a *diſtringas* againſt him, ordering him to reſtore to the biſhop of *Wincheſter* ſome of the temporalities of that ſee, which he had taken by violence and detained; viz. ſome lands in *Hocheleye*, and a mill [h]. By a *breve*, or writ, from the king he is alſo enjoined to readmit the biſhop of *Wincheſter*, and his tenants of the pariſh and town of *Farnham*, to paſture their horſes, and other *larger* cattle, "*averia*," in the foreſt of *Wolmer*, as had been the uſage from time immemorial. This writ is dated in the tenth year of the reign of *Edward*, viz. 1282.

All the king's writs directed to *Gurdon* are addreſſed in the following manner: "*Edwardus*, Dei gratia, &c. dilecto et fideli "ſuo *Ade Gurdon* ſalutem;" and again, "Cuſtodi foreſte ſue de "*Wolvemere*."

In the year 1293 a quarrel between the crews of an *Engliſh* and a *Norman* ſhip, about ſome trifle, brought on by degrees ſuch ſerious conſequences, that in 1295 a war broke out between the

[h] *Hocheleye*, now ſpelt *Hawkley*, is in the hundred of *Selborne*, and has a mill at this day.

two

two nations. The *French* king, *Philip the Hardy*, gained ſome advantages in *Gaſcony*; and, not content with thoſe, threatened *England* with an invaſion, and, by a ſudden attempt, took and burnt *Dover*.

Upon this emergency *Edward* ſent a writ to *Gurdon*, ordering him and four others to enliſt three thouſand ſoldiers in the counties of *Surrey*, *Dorſet*, and *Wiltſhire*, able-bodied men, "tam ſagittare "quam baliſtare potentes;" and to ſee that they were marched, by the feaſt of *All Saints*, to *Winchelſea*, there to be embarked aboard the king's tranſports.

The occaſion of this armament appears alſo from a ſummons to the biſhop of *Wincheſter* to parliament, part of which I ſhall tranſcribe on account of the inſolent menace which is ſaid therein to have been denounced againſt the *Engliſh* language:—"qualiter "rex *Franciæ* de terra noſtra *Gaſcon* nos fraudulenter et cauteloſe "decepit, eam nobis nequiter detinendo . . . vero predictis "fraude et nequitia non contentus, ad expugnationem regni "noſtri claſſe maxima et bellatorum copioſa multitudine congre-"gatis, cum quibus regnum noſtrum et regni ejuſdem incolas "hoſtiliter jam invaſurus, *linguam Anglicam*, ſi concepte iniquitatis "propoſito deteſtabili poteſtas correſpondeat, quod Deus avertat, "*omnino de terra delere proponit*." Dated 30th September, in the year of king *Edward*'s reign xxiii[1].

The above are the laſt traces that I can diſcover of *Gurdon*'s appearing and acting in public. The firſt notice that my evidences give of him is, that, in 1232, being the 16th of *Henry* III. he was the king's bailiff, with others, for the town of *Alton*. Now,

[1] Reg. *Wynton*, *Stratford*, but query *Stratford*; for *Stratford* was not biſhop of *Winton* till 1323, near thirty years afterwards.

from

from 1232 to 1295 is a ſpace of ſixty-three years; a long period for one man to be employed in active life! Should any one doubt whether all theſe particulars can relate to one and the ſame perſon, I ſhould wiſh him to attend to the following reaſons why they might. In the firſt place, the documents from the priory mention but one Sir *Adam Gurdon*, who had no ſon lawfully begotten: and in the next, we are to recollect that he muſt have probably been a man of uncommon vigour both of mind and body; ſince no one, unſupported by ſuch accompliſhments, could have engaged in ſuch adventures, or could have borne up againſt the difficulties which he ſometimes muſt have encountered: and, moreover, we have modern inſtances of perſons that have maintained their abilities for near that period.

Were we to ſuppoſe *Gurdon* to be only twenty years of age in 1232, in 1295 he would be eighty-three; after which advanced period it could not be expected that he ſhould live long. From the ſilence, therefore, of my evidences it ſeems probable that this extraordinary perſon finiſhed his life in peace, not long after, at his manſion of *Temple*. *Gurdon*'s ſeal had for its device —a man, with an helmet on his head, drawing a croſs-bow; the legend, "*Sigillum Ade de Gurdon*;" his arms were, "Goulis, "iii floures argent iſſant de teſtes de leopards [k]."

If the ſtout and unſubmitting ſpirit of *Gurdon* could be ſo much influenced by the belief and ſuperſtition of the times, much more might the hearts of his ladies and daughter. And accordingly we find that *Ameria*, by the conſent and advice of her ſons, though ſaid to be all under age, makes a grant for ever of ſome lands

[k] From the collection of *Thomas Martin*, Eſq. in the Antiquarian Repertory, p. 109, No. XXXI.

down

down by the ſtream at *Durton*; and alſo of her right of the common of *Durton* itſelf [1]. *Johanna*, the daughter and heireſs of Sir *Adam*, was married, I find, to *Richard Achard*; ſhe alſo grants to the prior and convent lands and tenements in the village of *Selborne*, which her father obtained from *Thomas Makerel*; and alſo all her goods and chattels in *Selborne* for the conſideration of two hundred pounds ſterling. This laſt buſineſs was tranſacted in the firſt year of *Edward* II. viz. 1307. It has been obſerved before that *Gurdon* had a natural ſon: this perſon was called by the name of *John Daſtard*, alias *Waſtard*, but more probably *Baſtard*; ſince baſtardy in thoſe days was not eſteemed any diſgrace, though daſtardy was eſteemed the greateſt. He was married to *Gunnorie Duncun*; and had a tenement and ſome land granted him in *Selborne* by his ſiſter *Johanna*.

[1] *Durton*, now called *Dorton*, is ſtill a common for the copyholders of *Selborne* manor.

LETTER

LETTER XI.

THE *Knights Templars* [m], who have been mentioned in a former letter, had conſiderable property in *Selborne*; and alſo a *preceptory* at *Sudington*, now called *Southington*, a hamlet lying one mile to the

The MILITARY ORDERS *of the* RELIGIOUS.

[m] The *Knights Hoſpitalars* of *St. John of Jeruſalem*, afterwards called *Knights of Rhodes*, now of *Malta*, came into *England* about the year 1100. 1 *Hen.* I.

The *Knights Templars* came into *England* pretty early in *Stephen*'s reign, which commenced 1135. The order was diſſolved in 1312, and their eſtates given by act of Parliament to the *Hoſpitalars* in 1323. (all in *Edw.* II.) though many of their eſtates were never actually enjoyed by the ſaid *Hoſpitalars*. *Vid. Tanner*, p. xxiv. x.

The *commandries* of the *Hoſpitalars*, and *preceptories* of *Templars*, were each ſubordinate to the principal houſe of their reſpective religion in *London*. Although theſe are the different denominations, which *Tanner* at p. xxviii. aſſigns to the cells of theſe different orders, yet throughout the work very frequent inſtances occur of *preceptories* attributed to the *Hoſpitalars*; and if in ſome paſſages of *Notitia Monaſt. commandries* are attributed to the *Templars*, it is only where the place afterwards became the property of the *Hoſpitalars*, and ſo is there indifferently ſtyled *preceptory* or *commandry*; ſee p. 243, 263, 276, 577, 678. But, to account for the firſt obſerved inaccuracy, it is probable the *preceptories* of the *Templars*, when given to the *Hoſpitalars*, were ſtill vulgarly, however, called by their old name of *preceptories*; whereas in propriety the ſocieties of the *Hoſpitalars* were indeed (as has been ſaid) *commandries*. And ſuch deviation from the ſtrictneſs of expreſſion in this caſe might occaſion thoſe ſocieties of *Hoſpitalars* alſo to be indifferently called *preceptories*, which had *originally* been veſted in *them*, having never belonged to the *Templars* at all.—See in *Archer*, p. 609. *Tanner*, p. 300. col. 1. 720. note *e*.

the eaſt of the village. Biſhop *Tanner* mentions only two ſuch houſes of the *Templars* in all the county of *Southampton*, viz. *Godeſfield*, founded by *Henry de Blois*, biſhop of *Winchester*, and *South Badeſley*, a preceptory of the *Knights Templars*, and afterwards of *St. John of Jeruſalem*, valued at one hundred and eighteen pounds ſixteen ſhillings and ſeven pence *per annum*. Here then was a *preceptory* unnoticed by antiquaries, between the village and *Temple*. Whatever the edifice of the *preceptory* might have been, it has long ſince been dilapidated; and the whole hamlet contains now only one mean farm-houſe, though there were two in the memory of man.

It has been uſual for the religious of different orders to fall into great diſſenſions, and eſpecially when they were near neighbours. Inſtances of this ſort we have heard of between the monks of

It is obſervable that the very ſtatute for the diſſolution of the *Hoſpitalars* holds the ſame language; for there, in the enumeration of particulars, occur "*commandries, pre-* "*ceptories.*" *Codex*, p. 1190. Now this intercommunity of names, and that in an act of parliament too, made ſome of our ableſt antiquaries look upon a *preceptory* and *commandry* as ſtrictly ſynonymous; accordingly we find *Camden*, in his *Britannia*, explaining *præceptoria* in the text by a *commandry* in the margin, p. 356. 510.

J. L.

Commandry, a manor or chief meſſuage with lands, &c. belonging to the priory of St. *John of Jeruſalem*; and he who had the government of ſuch houſe was called the *commander*, who could not diſpoſe of it but to the uſe of the priory, only taking thence his own ſuſtenance, according to his degree, who was uſually a brother of the ſame priory. *Cowell.* He adds (confounding theſe with *preceptories)* they are in many places termed *Temples*, as *Temple Bruere* in *Lincolnſhire*, &c. *Preceptories* were poſſeſſed by the more eminent ſort of *Templars*, whom the chief maſter created and called *Præceptores Templi. Cowell*, who refers to *Stephens* de Juriſd. lib. 4. c. 10. num. 27.

Placita de juratis et aſſis coram Salom. de Roff et ſociis ſuis juſtic. Itiner. apud Wynton. &c. anno regni R. Edwardi fil. Reg. Hen. octavo.—"et Magr. Milicie Tem-"pli in Angl. ht emendaſsē panis, & ſuis [cereviſiæ] in *Sodington*, & neſcint q°. war. et "—et magiſt. Milicie Templi nōn vēn iō diſtr." *Chapter-houſe, Weſtminſter.*

Canterbury;

Canterbury; and again between the old abbey of St. *Swythun*, and the comparatively new minſter of *Hyde* in the city of *Wincheſter* [n]. Theſe feuds aroſe probably from different orders being crowded within the narrow limits of a city, or garriſon-town, where every inch of ground was precious, and an object of contention. But with us, as far as my evidences extend, and while *Robert Saunford* was *maſter* [o], and *Richard Carpenter* was *preceptor*, the *Templars* and the *Priors* lived in an intercourſe of mutual good offices.

My papers mention three tranſactions, the exact time of which cannot be aſcertained, becauſe they fell out before dates were

Notitia Monaſtica, p. 155.

[n] "*Wincheſter, Newminſter.* King *Alfred* founded here firſt only a houſe and chapel "for the learned monk *Grimbald*, whom he had brought out of *Flanders*: but after-"wards projected, and by his will ordered, a noble church or religious houſe to be built "in the cemetery on the north ſide of the old minſter or cathedral; and deſigned that *Grim-*"*bald* ſhould preſide over it. This was begun A. D. 901, and finiſhed to the honour "of the *Holy Trinity, Virgin Mary*, and *St. Peter*, by his ſon king *Edward*, who placed "therein ſecular canons: but A. D. 963 they were expelled, and an abbot and monks "put in poſſeſſion by biſhop *Ethelwold*.

"Now the churches and habitations of theſe two ſocieties being ſo very near together, "the differences which were occaſioned by their ſinging, bells, and other matters, aroſe "to ſo great a height, that the religious of the new monaſtery thought fit, about A. D. "1119, to remove to a better and more quiet ſituation without the walls, on the north "part of the city called HYDE, where king *Henry* I. at the inſtance of *Will. Gifford*, "biſhop of *Winton*, founded a ſtately abbey for them. St. *Peter* was generally accounted "patron; though it is ſometimes called the monaſtery of St. *Grimbald*, and ſometimes "of St. *Barnabas*," &c.

Note. A few years ſince a county bridewell, or houſe of correction, has been built on the immediate ſite of *Hide Abbey*. In digging up the old foundations the workmen found the head of a croſier in good preſervation.

[o] *Robert Saunforde* was *maſter* of the *Temple* in 1241; *Guido de Foreſta* was the next in 1292. The former is fifth in a liſt of the *maſters* in a MS. *Bib. Cotton. Nero.* E. VI.

uſually inſerted; though probably they happened about the middle of the thirteenth century, not long after *Saunford* became *maſter*. The firſt of theſe is that the *Templars* ſhall pay to the priory of *Selborne*, annually, the ſum of ten ſhillings at two half yearly payments from their chamber, "*camera*," at *Sudington*, "per manum "*preceptoris*, vel *ballivi* noſtri, qui pro tempore fuerit ibidem," till they can provide the *prior* and canons with an equivalent in lands or rents within four or five miles of the ſaid convent. It is alſo further agreed that, if the *Templars* ſhall be in arrears for one year, that then the *prior* ſhall be empowered to diſtrain upon their live ſtock in *Bradeſeth*. The next matter was a grant from *Robert de Saunford* to the *priory* for ever, of a good and ſufficient road, "*cheminum*," capable of admitting carriages, and proper for the drift of their larger cattle, from the way which extends from *Sudington* towards *Blakemere*, on to the lands which the convent poſſeſſes in *Bradeſeth*.

The third tranſaction (though for want of dates we cannot ſay which happened firſt and which laſt) was a grant from *Robert Samford* to the priory of a tenement and its appurtenances in the village of *Selborne*, given to the *Templars* by *Americus de Vaſci*[P]. This property, by the manner of deſcribing it,—"totum tene-"mentum cum omnibus pertinentiis ſuis, ſcilicet in terris, & "*hominibus*, in pratis & paſcuis, & nemoribus," &c. ſeems to have been no inconſiderable purchaſe, and was ſold for two hundred marks ſterling, to be applied for the buying of more land for the ſupport of the holy war.

[P] *Americus Vaſci*, by his name, muſt have been an *Italian*, and had been probably a ſoldier of fortune, and one of *Gurdon*'s captains. *Americus Veſpucio*, the perſon who gave name to the new world, was a *Florentine*.

Prior

Prior *John* is mentioned as the perſon to whom *Vaſci*'s land is conveyed. But in *Willis*'s liſt there is no prior *John* till 1339, ſeveral years after the diſſolution of the order of the *Templars* in 1312; ſo that unleſs *Willis* is wrong, and has omitted a prior *John* ſince 1262, (that being the date of his firſt prior) theſe tranſactions muſt have fallen out before that date.

I find not the leaſt traces of any concerns between *Gurdon* and the *Knights Templars*; but probably after his death his daughter *Johanna* might have, and might beſtow, *Temple* on that order in ſupport of the holy land: and, moreover, ſhe ſeems to have been moving from *Selborne* when ſhe ſold her goods and chattels to the priory, as mentioned above.

Temple no doubt did belong to the knights, as may be aſſerted, not only from it's name, but alſo from another corroborating circumſtance of it's being ſtill a manor *tithe-free*; "for, by virtue "of their order," ſays Dr. *Blackſtone*, "the lands of the *Knights* "*Templars* were privileged by the pope with a diſcharge from "tithes."

Antiquaries have been much puzzled about the terms *preceptores* and *preceptorium*, not being able to determine what officer or edifice was meant. But perhaps all the while the paſſage quoted above from one of my papers "per manum *preceptoris* vel *ballivi* "noſtri, qui pro tempore fuerit ibidem," may help to explain the difficulty. For if it be allowed here that *preceptor* and *ballivus* are ſynonymous words, then the brother who took on him that office reſided in the houſe of the *Templars* at *Sudington*, a *preceptory*; where he was their *preceptor*, ſuperintended their affairs, received their money; and, as in the inſtance there mentioned, paid from their chamber, "*camera*," as directed: ſo that, according to this explanation,

explanation, a *preceptor* was no other than a ſteward, and a *preceptorium* was his reſidence. I am well aware that, according to ſtrict Latin, the *vel* ſhould have been *ſeu* or *ſive*, and the order of the words "*preceptoris noſtri*, vel ballivi, qui" — et "*ibidem*" ſhould have been *ibi*; *ibidem* neceſſarily having reference to *two* or more perſons: but it will hardly be thought fair to apply the niceties of claſſic rules to the Latinity of the thirteenth century, the writers of which ſeem to have aimed at nothing farther than to render themſelves intelligible.

There is another remark that we have made, which, I think, corroborates what has been advanced; and that is, that *Richard Carpenter*, *preceptor* of *Sudington*, at the time of the tranſactions between the *Templars* and *Selborne* Priory, did always ſign *laſt* as a witneſs in the three deeds: he calls himſelf *frater*, it is true, among many other brothers, but ſubſcribes with a kind of deference, as if, for the time being, his *office* rendered him an inferior in the community [q].

[p] In two or three ancient records relating to St. *Oſwald*'s hoſpital in the city of *Worceſter*, printed by Dr. *Naſh*, p. 227 and 228, of his collections for the hiſtory of *Worceſterſhire*, the words *preceptorium* and *preceptoria* ſignify the *maſterſhip* of the ſaid hoſpital: "ad *preceptorium* ſive *magiſterium* preſentavit—*preceptorii* ſive *magiſterii* patronus. Vacavit dicta *preceptoria* ſeu *magiſterium*—ad *preceptoriam* et regimen dicti hoſpitalis---Te *preceptorem* ſive magiſtrum prefecimus."

Where *preceptorium* denotes a building or apartment it may probably mean the maſter's lodgings, or at leaſt the *preceptor*'s apartment, whatſoever may have been the office or employment of the ſaid preceptor.

A *preceptor* is mentioned in *Thoreſby's Ducatus Leodienſis*, or Hiſtory of *Leeds*, p. 225, and a deed witneſſed by the *preceptor* and chaplain before dates were inſerted. --- *Du Freſne*'s Supplement: "*Preceptoriæ*, prædia *preceptoribus* aſſignata."---*Cowel*, in his Law Dictionary, enumerates ſixteen *preceptoriæ*, or *preceptories*, in *England*; but *Sudington* is not among them.—It is remarkable that *Gurtierus*, in his *Hiſtoria Templariorum* Amſtel. 1691, never once mentions the words *preceptor* or *preceptorium*.

LETTER

LETTER XII.

THE ladies and daughter of Sir *Adam Gurdon* were not the only benefactreſſes to the Priory of *Selborne*; for, in the year 1281, *Ela Longſpee* obtained maſſes to be performed for her ſoul's health; and the prior entered into an engagement that one of the convent ſhould every day ſay a ſpecial maſs for ever for the ſaid benefactreſs, whether living or dead. She alſo engaged within five years to pay to the ſaid convent one hundred marks of ſilver for the ſupport of a *chantry* and *chantry-chaplain*, who ſhould perform his maſſes daily in the pariſh church of *Selborne* [r]. In the eaſt end of the ſouth aile there are two ſharp-pointed gothic niches; one of theſe probably was the place under which theſe maſſes were performed; and there is the more reaſon to ſuppoſe as much, becauſe, till within theſe thirty years, this ſpace was fenced off with *gothic* wooden railing, and was known by the name of the ſouth chancel [s].

The ſolicitude expreſſed by the donor plainly ſhews her piety and firm perſuaſion of the efficacy of prayers for the dead; for

[r] A *chantry* was a chapel joined to ſome cathedral or pariſh church, and endowed with annual revenues for the maintenance of one or more prieſts to ſing maſs daily for the ſoul of the founder, and others.

[s] For what is ſaid more reſpecting this chantry ſee Letter III. of theſe Antiquities.---Mention is made of a *Nicholas Langriſh*, capellanus de *Selborne*, in the time of *Henry* VIII. Was he chantry-chaplain to *Ela Longſpee*, whoſe maſſes were probably continued to the time of the reformation? More will be ſaid of this perſon hereafter.

ſhe

ſhe ſeems to have made every proviſion for the payment of the ſum ſtipulated within the appointed time; and to have felt much anxiety leſt her death, or the neglect of her executors or aſſigns, might fruſtrate her intentions.—" Et ſi contingat me in ſolucione " predicte pecunie annis predictis in parte aut in toto deficere, " quod abſit; concedo et obligo pro me et aſſignatis meis, quod " *Vice-Comes* - - - *Oxon* et - - - - - qui pro tempore fuerint, per omnes " terras et tenementa, et omnia bona mea mobilia et immobilia " ubicunque in balliva ſua fuerint inventa ad ſolucionem predictam " faciendam poſſent nos compellere." And again—" Et ſi con- " tingat dictos religioſos labores ſeu expenſas facere circa pre- " dictam pecuniam, ſeu circa partem dicte pecunie; volo quod " dictorum religioſorum impenſe et labores levantur ita quod pre- " dicto priori vel uni canonicorum ſuorum ſuperhiis ſimplici " verbo credatur ſine alterius honere probacionis; et quod utrique " predictorum virorum in unam marcam argenti pro cujuſlibet " diſtrincione ſuper me facienda tenear. — Dat. apud *Wareborn die* " *ſabati* proxima ante feſtum *St. Marci* evangeliſte, anno regni regis " *Edwardi* tertio decimo[t]."

But the reader perhaps would wiſh to be better informed reſpecting this benefactreſs, of whom as yet he has heard no particulars.

The *Ela Longſpee* therefore above-mentioned was a lady of high birth and rank, and became counteſs to *Thomas de Newburgh*, the ſixth earl of *Warwick:* ſhe was the ſecond daughter of the famous *Ela Longſpee* counteſs of *Saliſbury*, by *William Longſpee*, natural ſon of king *Henry* II. by *Roſamond.*

[t] Ancient deeds are often dated on a *Sunday*, having been executed in churches and church-yards for the ſake of notoriety, and for the conveniency of procuring ſeveral witneſſes to atteſt.

Our

Our lady, following the ſteps of her illuſtrious mother[u], " was " a great benefactreſs to the univerſity of *Oxford*, to the canons " of *Oſeney*, the nuns of *Godſtow*, and other religious houſes in " *Oxfordſhire*. She died very aged in the year 1300[x], and was " buried before the high altar in the abbey church of *Oſeney*, " at the head of the tomb of *Henry D'Oily*, under a flat marble, " on which was inlaid her portraiture, in the habit of a voweſs, " engraved on a copper-plate." ——— *Edmondſon's Hiſtory and Genealogical Account of the Grevilles*, p. 23.

[u] *Ela Longſpee*, counteſs of *Saliſbury*, in 1232 founded a monaſtery at *Lacock*, in the county of *Wilts*, and alſo another at *Hendon*, in the county of *Somerſet*, in her widowhood, to the honour of the Bleſſed Virgin and St. *Bernard*. CAMDEN.

[x] Thus ſhe ſurvived the foundation of her chantry at *Selborne* fifteen years. About this lady and her mother conſult *Dugdale*'s Baronage, I. 72, 175, 177.——*Dugdale*'s Warwickſhire, I. 383,---*Leland*'s Itin. II. 45.

LETTER XIII.

THE reader is here preſented with five forms reſpecting the chuſing of a prior; but as they are of ſome length they muſt be reſerved for the Appendix; their titles are N°. 108. "Charta "petens licentiam elegendi *prelatum* a Domino epiſcopo *Wintoni-* "*enſi*:—"Forma licentie conceſſe:"—"Forma decreti poſt "electionem conficiendi:"—108. "Modus procedendi ad elec- "tionem per formam ſcrutinii:"—et "Forma ricte preſentandi "electum." Such evidences are rare and curious, and throw great light upon the general *monaſtico-eccleſiaſtical* hiſtory of this kingdom, not yet ſufficiently underſtood.

In the year 1324 there was an election for a prior at *Selborne*; when ſome difficulties occurring, and a devolution taking place, application was made to *Stratford*, who was biſhop of *Wincheſter* at that time, and of courſe the viſitor and patron of the convent at the ſpot above-mentioned [y].

An Extract from REG. STRATFORD. *Winton.*

P. 4. "Commiſſio facta ſub-priori de *Selebourne*" by the biſhop enjoining him to preſerve the diſcipline of the order in the convent during the vacancy made by the late death of the prior,

[y] *Stratford* was biſhop of *Wincheſter* from 1323 to 1333, when he was tranſlated to *Canterbury*.

("nuper

(" nuper paſtoris ſolatio deſtituta,") dated 4th. kal. Maii. ann. 2do ſc. of his conſecration. [ſc. 1324.]

P. 6. " Cuſtodia Prioratus de *Seleburne* vacantis," committed by the biſhop to *Nicholas de la* - - -, a layman, it belonging to the biſhop " ratione vacationis ejuſdem," in *July* 1324, ibid. " negotium electionis de *Selebourne*. Acta coram *Johanne* Epiſcopo, &c. " 1324 in negotio electionis de fratre *Waltero de Inſula* concanonico " prioratus de *Selebourne*," lately elected by the ſub-prior and convent, by way of ſcrutiny: that it appeared to the biſhop, by certificate from the dean of *Alton*, that ſolemn citation and proclamation had been made in the church of the convent where the election was held that any who oppoſed the ſaid election or elected ſhould appear.—Some difficulties were ſtarted, which the biſhop over-ruled, and confirmed the election, and admitted the new prior *ſub hac forma*:—

" In Dei nomine Amen. Ego *Johannes* permiſſione divina, &c. " te *Walterum de Inſula* eccleſie *de Selebourne* noſtre dioceſeos " noſtrique patronatus vacantis, canonicum et cantorem, virum " utique providum, et diſcretum, literarum ſcientia preditum, " vita moribus et converſatione merito commendatum, in ordine " ſacerdotali et etate legitima conſtitutum, de legitimo matrimonio " procreatum, in ordine et religione *Sancti Auguſtini de Selebourne* " expreſſe profeſſum, in ſpiritualibus et temporalibus circumſpectum, *jure* nobis hac vice *devoluto* in hac parte, in dicte eccleſie " de *Selebourne* perfectum priorem; curam et adminiſtrationem " ejuſdem tibi in ſpiritualibus et temporalibus committentes. Dat. " apud *Selebourne* XIII kalend. Auguſti anno ſupradicto."

There follows an order to the ſub-prior and convent pro obedientia:

A mandate to *Nicholas* above-named to releaſe the Priory to the new prior:

A mandate for the induction of the new prior.

LETTER XIV.

" In the year 1373 *Wykeham*, biſhop of *Wincheſter*, held a viſitation " of his whole dioceſe; not only of the ſecular clergy through " the ſeveral deaneries, but alſo of the monaſteries, and religious " houſes of all ſorts, which he viſited in perſon. The next year " he ſent his commiſſioners with power to correct and reform the " ſeveral irregularities and abuſes which he had diſcovered in the " courſe of his viſitation.

" Some years afterward, the biſhop having viſited *three ſeveral* " *times* all the religious houſes throughout his dioceſe, and being " well informed of the ſtate and condition of each, and of the " particular abuſes which required correction and reformation, " beſides the orders which he had already given, and the remedies " which he had occaſionally applied by his commiſſioners, now " iſſued his injunctions to each of them. They were accommo- " dated to their ſeveral exigencies, and intended to correct the " abuſes introduced, and to recall them all to a ſtrict obſervation " of

" of the rules of their reſpective orders. Many of theſe injunc-
" tions are ſtill extant, and are evident monuments of the care
" and attention with which he diſcharged this part of his epiſcopal
" duty [z]."

Some of theſe injunctions I ſhall here produce; and they are ſuch as will not fail, I think, to give ſatisfaction to the antiquary, both as never having been publiſhed before, and as they are a curious picture of monaſtic irregularities at that time.

The documents that I allude to are contained in the *Notabilis Viſitatio de Seleburne*, held at the Priory of that place, by *Wykeham* in perſon, in the year 1387.

This evidence, in the original, is written on two ſkins of parchment; the one large, and the other ſmaller, and conſiſts of a *preamble*, 36 *items*, and a *concluſion*, which altogether evince the patient inveſtigation of the viſitor, for which he had always been ſo remarkable in all matters of moment, and how much he had at heart the regularity of thoſe inſtitutions, of whoſe efficacy in their prayers for the dead he was ſo firmly perſuaded. As the biſhop was ſo much in earneſt, we may be aſſured that he had nothing in view but to correct and reform what he found amiſs; and was under no bias to blacken, or miſrepreſent, as the commiſſioners of *Thomas* Lord *Cromwell* ſeem in part to have done at the time of the reformation [a]. We may therefore with reaſon ſuppoſe that the biſhop gives us an exact delineation of the morals and manners of the canons of *Selborne* at that juncture; and that what he found they had omitted he enjoins them; and for what they have done amiſs, and contrary to their rules and

[z] See *Lowth*'s Life of *Wykeham*.

[a] Letters of this ſort from Dr. *Layton* to *Thomas* Lord *Cromwell* are ſtill extant.

ſtatutes,

ſtatutes, he reproves them; and threatens them with puniſhment ſuitable to their irregularities.

This *viſitatio* is of conſiderable length, and cannot be introduced into the body of this work; we ſhall therefore refer the reader to the *Appendix*, where he will find every particular, while we ſhall take ſome notice, and make ſome remarks, on the moſt ſingular *items* as they occur.

In the preamble the viſitor ſays—"Conſidering the charge "lying upon us, that your blood may not be required at our "hands, we came down to viſit your Priory, as our office re-"quired: and every time we repeated our viſitation we found "ſomething ſtill not only contrary to regular rules but alſo re-"pugnant to religion and good reputation."

In the firſt article after the preamble—"he commands them "on their obedience, and on pain of the greater excommunication, "to ſee that the canonical hours by night and by day be ſung in "their choir, and the maſſes of the Bleſſed *Mary*, and other "accuſtomed maſſes, be celebrated at the proper hours with devo-"tion, and at moderate pauſes; and that it be not allowed to "any to abſent themſelves from the hours and maſſes, or to "withdraw before they are finiſhed."

Item 2d. He enjoins them to obſerve that ſilence to which they are ſo ſtrictly bound by the rule of Saint *Auguſtine* at ſtated times, and wholly to abſtain from frivolous converſation.

Item 4th. "Not to permit ſuch frequent paſſing of ſecular "people of both ſexes through their convent, as if a thorough-"fare, from whence many diſorders may and have ariſen."

Item 5th. "To take care that the doors of their church and "Priory be ſo attended to that no ſuſpected and diſorderly "females, 'ſuſpectæ et aliæ inhoneſtæ,' paſs through their choir "and

" and cloiſter in the dark;" and to ſee that the doors of their church between the nave and the choir, and the gates of their cloiſter opening into the fields, be conſtantly kept ſhut until their firſt choir-ſervice is over in the morning, at dinner time, and when they meet at their evening collation [b].

Item 6th mentions that ſeveral of the canons are found to be very ignorant and illiterate, and enjoins the prior to ſee that they be better inſtructed by a proper maſter.

Item 8th. The canons are here accuſed of refuſing to accept of their ſtatutable clothing year by year, and of demanding a certain ſpecified ſum of money, as if it were their annual rent and due. This the biſhop forbids, and orders that the canons ſhall be clothed out of the revenue of the Priory, and the old garments be laid by in a chamber and given to the poor, according to the rule of Saint *Auguſtine*.

In *Item* 9th is a complaint that ſome of the canons are given to wander out of the precincts of the convent without leave; and that others ride to their manors and farms, under pretence of inſpecting the concerns of the ſociety, when they pleaſe, and ſtay as long as they pleaſe. But they are enjoined never to ſtir either about their own private concerns or the buſineſs of the convent without leave from the prior: and no canon is to go alone, but to have a grave brother to accompany him.

The injunction in *Item* 10th, at this diſtance of time, appears rather ludicrous; but the viſitor ſeems to be very ſerious on the occaſion, and ſays that it has been evidently proved to him that ſome of the canons, living diſſolutely after the fleſh, and not after the ſpirit, ſleep naked in their beds without their breeches

[b] A collation was a meal or repaſt on a faſt day in lieu of a ſupper.

and

and ſhirts, "abſque femoralibus et camiſiis[c]." He enjoins that theſe culprits ſhall be puniſhed by ſevere faſting, eſpecially if they ſhall be found to be faulty a third time; and threatens the prior and ſub-prior with ſuſpenſion if they do not correct this enormity.

In *Item* 11th the good biſhop is very wroth with ſome of the canons, whom he finds to be profeſſed hunters and ſportſmen, keeping hounds, and publicly attending hunting-matches. Theſe purſuits, he ſays, occaſion much diſſipation, danger to the ſoul and body, and frequent expenſe; he, therefore, wiſhing to extirpate this vice wholly from the convent, "*radicibus extirpare*," does abſolutely enjoin the canons never intentionally to be preſent at any public noiſy tumultuous huntings; or to keep any hounds, by themſelves or by others, openly or by ſtealth, within the convent, or without[d].

In *Item* 12th he forbids the canons in office to make their buſineſs a plea for not attending the ſervice of the choir; ſince by theſe means either divine worſhip is neglected or their brother-canons are over-burdened.

By *Item* 14th we are informed that the original number of canons at the Priory of *Selborne* was *fourteen*; but that at this viſitation they were found to be let down to *eleven*. The viſitor therefore ſtrongly

[c] The rule alluded to in *Item* 10th, of not ſleeping naked, was enjoined the *Knights Templars*, who alſo were ſubject to the rules of St. *Auguſtine*.

See *Gurtleri Hiſt. Templariorum*.

[d] Conſidering the ſtrong propenſity in human nature towards the pleaſures of the chaſe, it is not to be wondered that the canons of *Selborne* ſhould languiſh after hunting, when, from their ſituation ſo near the precincts of *Wolmer-foreſt*, the king's hounds muſt have been often in hearing, and ſometimes in ſight from their windows.---If the biſhop was ſo offended at theſe ſporting canons, what would he have ſaid to our modern fox-hunting divines?

and

and earneſtly enjoins them that, with all due ſpeed and diligence, they ſhould proceed to the election of proper perſons to fill up the vacancies, under pain of the greater excommunication.

In *Item* 17th. the prior and canons are accuſed of ſuffering, through neglect, notorious dilapidations to take place among their manerial houſes and tenements, and in the walls and enclosures of the convent itſelf, to the ſhame and ſcandal of the inſtitution; they are therefore enjoined, under pain of ſuſpenſion, to repair all defects within the ſpace of ſix months.

Item 18th. charges them with grievouſly burthening the ſaid Priory by means of ſales, and grants of *liveries*[e] and *corrodies*[f].

The biſhop, in *item* 19th, accuſes the canons of neglect and omiſſion with reſpect to their perpetual *chantry-ſervices*.

Item 20th. The viſitor here conjures the prior and canons not to withhold their original *alms*, "*eleemoſynas*;" nor thoſe that they were enjoined to diſtribute for the good of the ſouls of founders and benefactors: he alſo ſtrictly orders that the fragments and broken victuals, both from the hall of their prior and their common refectory ſhould be carefully collected together by their *eleemoſynarius*, and given to the poor without any diminution; the officer to be ſuſpended for neglect or omiſſion.

[e] "*Liberationes*, or *liberaturæ*, allowances of corn, &c. to ſervants, *delivered* at "certain times, and in certain quantities, as *clothes* were among the allowances from "religious houſes to their dependants. See the *corrodies* granted by *Croyland abbey*. *Hiſt. of Croyland*, Appendix, N° XXXIV.

"It is not improbable that the word in after-ages came to be confined to the uniform "of the retainers or ſervants of the great, who were hence called *livery ſervants*."
Sir John Cullum's Hiſt. of Hawſted.

[f] A *corrody* is an allowance to a ſervant living in an abbey or priory.

Item 23d. He bids them diſtribute their *pittances*, "*pitancias*[g]," regularly on obits, anniverſaries, feſtivals, &c.

Item 25th. All and every one of the canons are hereby inhibited from ſtanding godfather to *any boy* for the future, "ne *compatres alicujus pueri* de cetero fieri preſumatis," unleſs by expreſs licenſe from the biſhop obtained; becauſe from ſuch relationſhip favour and affection, nepotiſm, and undue influence, ariſe, to the injury and detriment of religious inſtitutions[h].

Item 26th. The viſitor herein ſeverely reprimands the canons for appearing publicly in what would be called in the univerſities an *unſtatutable manner*, and for wearing of boots, "caligæ de "*Burneto*, et *ſotularium*———in ocrearum loco, ad modum ſotularium[i]."

[g] "*Pitancia*, an allowance of bread and beer, or other proviſion to any pious uſe, "eſpecially to the religious in a monaſtery, &c. for augmentation of their commons." *Gloſſ. to Kennett's Par. Antiq.*

[h] "The relationſhip between ſponſors and their god-children, who were called "*ſpiritual ſons* and *daughters*, was formerly eſteemed much more ſacred than at pre-"ſent. The preſents at chriſtenings were ſometimes very conſiderable: the connexion "laſted through life, and was cloſed with a legacy. This laſt mark of attention ſeems "to have been thought almoſt indiſpenſable: for, in a will, from whence no extracts "have been given, the teſtator left every one of his god-children a buſhel of barley." *Sir John Cullum's Hiſt. of Hawſted.*

"D. *Margaretæ* filiæ Regis primogenitæ, quam *filiolam*, quia ejus in baptiſmo "*compater* fuit, appellat, cyphum aureum et quadraginta libras, legavit."—Archbiſhop *Parker* de Antiquitate Eccleſ. Brit. ſpeaking of Archbiſhop *Morton*.

[i] *Du Freſne* is copious on *caligæ* of ſeveral ſorts. "Hoc item de Clericis, preſertim "beneficiatis: *caligis* ſcacatis (chequered) rubeis, et viridibus publice utentibus dici-"mus eſſe cenſendum." *Statut. Eccleſ. Tutel.* The chequered boots ſeem to be the highland plaid ſtockings.---"*Burnetum*, i. e. *Brunetum*, pannus non ex lanâ nativi coloris "confectus."---"*Sotularium*, i. e. ſubtalaris, quia ſub talo eſt. Peculium genus, quibus "maxime Monachi nocte utebantur in æſtate; in hyeme vero Soccis."

This writer gives many quotations concerning *Sotularia*, which were not to be made too ſhapely; nor were the *caligæ* to be laced on too nicely.

It

It is remarkable that the biſhop expreſſes more warmth againſt this than any other irregularity; and ſtrictly enjoins them, under pain of eccleſiaſtical cenſures, and even impriſonment if neceſſary (a threat not made uſe of before), for the future to wear boots, "ocreis ſeu botis," according to the regular uſage of their ancient order.

Item 29th. He here again, but with leſs earneſtneſs, forbids them foppiſh ornaments, and the affectation of appearing like beaux with garments edged with coſtly furs, with fringed gloves, and ſilken girdles trimmed with gold and ſilver. It is remarkable that no puniſhment is annexed to this injunction.

Item 31ſt. He here ſingly and ſeverally forbids each canon not admitted to a cure of ſouls to adminiſter extreme unction, or the ſacrament, to clergy or laity; or to perform the ſervice of matrimony, till he has taken out the licenſe of the pariſh prieſt.

Item 32d. The biſhop ſays in this *item* that he had obſerved and found, in his ſeveral viſitations, that the ſacramental plate and cloths of the altar, ſurplices, &c. were ſometimes left in ſuch an uncleanly and diſguſting condition as to make the beholders ſhudder with horror;—"quod aliquibus ſunt horrori [k]:" he therefore enjoins them for the future to ſee that the plate, cloths, and veſtments, be kept bright, clean, and in decent order: and, what

[k] "Men abhorred the offering of the Lord." 1 *Sam. chap.* ii. *v.* 17. Strange as this account may appear to modern delicacy, the author, when firſt in orders, twice met with ſimilar circumſtances attending the ſacrament at two churches belonging to two obſcure villages. In the firſt he found the inſide of the chalice covered with birds' dung; and in the other the communion-cloth ſoiled with cabbage and the greaſy drippings of a gammon of bacon. The good dame at the great farm-houſe, who was to furniſh the cloth, being a notable woman, thought it beſt to ſave her clean linen, and ſo ſent a foul cloth that had covered her own table for two or three *Sundays* before.

muſt ſurpriſe the reader, adds—that he expects for the future that the ſacriſt ſhould provide for the ſacrament good wine, pure and unadulterated; and not, as had often been the practice, that which was ſour, and tending to decay: — he ſays farther, that it ſeems quite prepoſterous to omit in ſacred matters that attention to decent cleanlineſs, the neglect of which would diſgrace a common convivial meeting [1].

Item 33d ſays that, though the relics of ſaints, the plate, holy veſtments, and books of religious houſes, are forbidden by canonical inſtitutes to be pledged or lent out upon pawn; yet, as the viſitor finds this to be the caſe in his ſeveral viſitations, he therefore ſtrictly enjoins the prior forthwith to recall thoſe pledges, and to reſtore them to the convent; and orders that all the papers and title deeds thereto belonging ſhould be ſafely depoſited, and kept under three locks and keys.

In the courſe of the *Viſitatio Notabilis* the *conſtitutions* of *Legate Ottobonus* are frequently referred to. *Ottobonus* was afterwards *Pope Adrian* V. and died in 1276. His conſtitutions are in *Lyndewood's Provinciale*, and were drawn up in the 52d of *Henry* III.

In the *Viſitatio Notabilis* the uſual puniſhment is faſting on bread and beer; and in caſes of repeated delinquency on bread and water. On theſe occaſions *quarta feria*, et *ſexta feria*, are mentioned often, and are to be underſtood of the days of the *week* numerically on which ſuch puniſhment is to be inflicted.

[1] "— — — ne turpe toral, ne ſordida mappa
"Corruget nares; ne non et cantharus, et lanx
"Oſtendat tibi te — — —"

LETTER

LETTER XV.

THOUGH biſhop *Wykeham* appears ſomewhat ſtern and rigid in his viſitatorial character towards the Priory of *Selborne*, yet he was on the whole a liberal friend and benefactor to that convent, which, like every ſociety or individual that fell in his way, partook of the generoſity and benevolence of that munificent prelate.

" In the year 1377 *William* of *Wykeham*, out of his mere good " will and liberality, diſcharged the whole debts of the prior " and convent of *Selborne*, to the amount of one hundred and ten " marks eleven ſhillings and ſixpence[m]; and, a few years before " he died, he made a free gift of one hundred marks to the ſame " Priory: on which account the prior and convent voluntarily " engaged for the celebration of two maſſes a day by two canons " of the convent for ten years, for the biſhop's welfare, if he " ſhould live ſo long; and for his ſoul if he ſhould die before " the expiration of this term[n]."

At this diſtance of time it ſeems matter of great wonder to us how theſe ſocieties, ſo nobly endowed, and whoſe members were exempt by their very inſtitution from every means of perſonal and

[m] Yet in ten years time we find, by the *Notabilis Viſitatio*, that all their relics, plate, veſtments, title-deeds, &c. were in pawn.

[n] *Lowth*'s Life of *Wykeham*.

family

family expenſe, could poſſibly run in debt without ſquandering their revenues in a manner incompatible with their function.

Religious houſes might ſometimes be diſtreſſed in their revenues by fires among their buildings, or large dilapidations from ſtorms, &c.; but no ſuch accident appears to have befallen the Priory at *Selborne*. Thoſe ſituate on public roads, or in great towns where there were ſhrines of ſaints, were liable to be intruded on by travellers, devotees, and pilgrims; and were ſubject to the importunity of the poor, who ſwarmed at their gates to partake of doles and broken victuals. Of theſe diſadvantages ſome convents uſed to complain, and eſpecially thoſe at *Canterbury*; but this Priory, from it's ſequeſtered ſituation, could ſeldom be ſubject to either of theſe inconveniencies, and therefore we muſt attribute it's frequent debts and embarraſſments, well endowed as it was, to the bad conduct of it's members, and a general inattention to the intereſts of the inſtitution.

LETTER

LETTER XVI.

BEAUFORT was biſhop of *Wincheſter* from 1405 to 1447; and yet, notwithſtanding this long epiſcopate, only tom. I. of *Beaufort*'s Regiſter is to be found. This loſs is much to be regretted, as it muſt unavoidably make a gap in the hiſtory of *Selborne* Priory, and perhaps in the liſt of it's priors.

In 1410 there was an election for a prior, and again in 1411.

In vol. I. p. 24, of *Beaufort*'s Regiſter, is the inſtrument of the election of *John Wyncheſtre* to be prior—the ſubſtance as follows:

Richard Elſtede, ſenior canon, ſignifies to the biſhop that brother *Thomas Weſton*, the late prior, died *October* 18th, 1410, and was buried *November* 11th.—That the biſhop's licenſe to elect having been obtained he and the whole convent met in the chapter-houſe, on the ſame day, about the hour of veſpers, to conſider of the election: — that brother *John Wyncheſtre*, then ſub-prior, with the general conſent, appointed the 12th of *November*, *ad horam ejuſdem diei capitularem*, for the buſineſs:—when they met in the chapter-houſe, *poſt miſſam de ſancto Spiritu*, ſolemnly celebrated in the church;—to wit, *Richard Elſtede*; *Thomas Halyborne*; *John Lenyngton*, ſacriſta; *John Stepe*, cantor; *Walter Ffarnham*; *Richard Putworth*, celerarius; *Hugh London*, *Henry Brampton*, alias *Brompton*; *John Wyncheſtre*, ſenior; *John Wyncheſtre*, junior;—then "Propoſito "primitus verbo Dei," and then ympno "Veni Creator Spiritus" being

being ſolemnly ſung, cum "verſiculo et oratione," as uſual, and his letter of licenſe, with the appointment of the hour and place of election being read, *alta voce*, in valvis of the chapter-houſe;—*John Wyncheſtre*, ſenior, the ſub-prior, in his own behalf and that of all the canons, and by their mandate, "quaſdam monicionem "et proteſtacionem in ſcriptis redactas fecit, legit, et interpoſuit"—that all perſons diſqualified, or not having right to be preſent, ſhould immediately withdraw; and proteſting againſt their voting, &c.—that then having read the conſtitution of the general council "Quia propter," and explained the modes of proceeding to election, they agreed unanimouſly to proceed "per viam ſeu formam "*ſimplicis compromiſſi*;" when *John Wyncheſtre*, ſub-prior, and all the others (the commiſſaries undernamed excepted) named and choſe brothers *Richard Elſtede*, *Thomas Halyborne*, *John Lemyngton* the ſacriſt, *John Stepe*, chantor, and *Richard Putworth*, canons, to be commiſſaries, who were ſworn each to nominate and elect a fit perſon to be prior: and empowered by letters patent under the common ſeal, to be in force only until the darkneſs of the night of the ſame day;—that they, or the greater part of them, ſhould elect for the whole convent, within the limited time, from their own number, or from the reſt of the convent;—that one of them ſhould publiſh their conſent in common before the clergy and people:—they then all promiſed to receive as prior the perſon theſe five canons ſhould fix on. Theſe commiſſaries ſeceded from the chapter-houſe to the refectory of the Priory, and were ſhut in with maſter *John Penkeſter*, bachelor of laws; and *John Couke* and *John Lynne*, perpetual vicars of the pariſh churches of *Newton* and *Selborne*; and with *Sampſon Maycock*, a public notary; where they treated of the election; when they unanimouſly agreed on *John Wyncheſtre*, and appointed *Thomas Halyborne* to chuſe him in com-

mon,

mon for all, and to publiſh the election, as cuſtomary; and returned long before it was dark to the chapter-houſe, where *Thomas Halyborne* read publicly the inſtrument of election; when all the brothers, the new prior excepted, ſinging ſolemnly the hymn "Te Deum laudamus," *fecerunt deportari novum electum*, by ſome of the brothers, from the chapter-houſe to the high altar of the church[o]; and the hymn being ſung, *dictiſque verſiculoet oratione conſuetis in hac parte*, Thomas Halyborne, *mox tunc ibidem*, before the clergy and people of both ſexes ſolemnly publiſhed the election *in vulgari*. Then *Richard Elſtede*, and the whole convent by their proctors and nuncios appointed for the purpoſes, *Thomas Halyborne* and *John Stepe*, required ſeveral times the aſſent of the elected; "et tandem poſt diutinas interpellationes, et deliberationem "providam penes ſe habitam, in hac parte divine nolens, ut "afferuit, reſiſtere voluntati," within the limited time he ſignified his acceptance in the uſual written form of words. The biſhop is then ſupplicated to confirm their election, and do the needful, under common ſeal, in the chapter-houſe. *November* 14, 1410.

The biſhop, *January* 6, 1410, *apud* Eſher *in camera inferiori*, declared the election duly made, and ordered the new prior to be inducted—for this the archdeacon of *Wincheſter* was written to; "ſtallumque in choro, et locum in capitulo juxta morem preteriti "temporis," to be aſſigned him; and every thing beſide neceſſary to be done.

[o] It ſeems here as if the canons uſed to *chair* their new elected prior from the chapter-houſe to the high altar of their convent-church. In letter XXI, on the ſame occaſion, it is ſaid---"et ſic canentes dictum electum ad majus altare eccleſie *deduximus*, ut apud nos "moris eſt."

BEAUFORT'S REGISTER, Vol. I.

P. 2. Taxatio ſpiritualis Decanatus de *Aulton*, Eccleſia de *Selebourn*, cum Capella,—xxx marc. decima xlib. iii ſol. Vicaria de *Selebourn* non taxatur propter exilitatem.

P. 9. Taxatio bonorum temporalium religioſorum in Archidiac. *Wynton.*

Prior de *Selebourn* habet meneria de

Bromdene taxat. ad - - - - - - - - -	xxxs. iid.
Apud *Schete* ad - - - - - - - - - - -	xvii s.
P. *Selebourne* ad - - - - - - - - - -	vi lib.
In civitate *Wynton* de reddit. - - - - - - -	vi lib. viii ob.
Tannaria ſua taxat. ad - - - - - - - -	x lib. s.

Summa tax. xxxviii lib. xiiii d. ob. Inde decima vi lib. s. q. ob.

LETTER

LETTER XVII.

INFORMATION being ſent to *Rome* reſpecting the havock and ſpoil that was carrying on among the revenues and lands of the Priory of *Selborne*, as we may ſuppoſe by the biſhop of *Winchester*, it's viſitor, *Pope Martin* [P], as ſoon as the news of theſe proceedings came before him, iſſued forth a *bull*, in which he enjoins his commiſſary immediately to revoke all the property that had been alienated.

In this inſtrument his holineſs accuſes the prior and canons of having granted away (they themſelves and their predeceſſors) to certain clerks and laymen their tithes, lands, rents, tenements, and poſſeſſions, to ſome of them for their lives, to others for an undue term of years, and to ſome again for a perpetuity, to the great and heavy detriment of the monaſtery: and theſe leaſes were granted, he continues to add, under their own hands, with the ſanction of an oath and the renunciation of all right and claims, and under penalties, if the right was not made good.—But it will be beſt to give an abſtract from the *bull*.

N. 298. *Pope Martin's bull* touching the revoking of certaine things alienated from the Priory of *Seleburne*. Pontif. ſui ann. 1.

[P] *Pope Martin* V. choſen about 1417. He attempted to reform the church, but died in 1431, juſt as he had ſummoned the council of *Baſil*.

" *Martinus* Epſ. ſervus ſervorum Dei. Dilecto filio Priori de " *Suthvale*[q] *Wyntonien.* dioc. Salutem & apoſtolicam ben. Ad " audientiam noſtram pervenit quam tam dilecti filii prior et " conventus monaſterii de *Seleburn* per Priorem ſoliti gubernari " ordinis S^ti. *Auguſtini Winton.* dioc. quam de predeceſſores eorum " decimas, terras, redditus, domos, poſſeſſiones, *vineas*[r], et " quedam alia bona ad monaſterium ipſum ſpectantia, datis ſuper " hoc litteris, interpoſitis juramentis, factis renuntiationibus, et " penis adjectis, in gravem ipſius monaſterii leſionem nonnullis " clericis et laicis, aliquibus eorum ad vitam, quibuſdam vero " ad non modicum tempus, & aliis perpetuo ad firmam, vel " ſub cenſu annuo conceſſerunt; quorum aliqui dicunt ſuper " hiis a ſede aplica in communi forma confirmationis litteras " impetraſſe. Quia vero noſtra intereſt leſis monaſteriis ſub- " venire — [He the Pope here commands] — ea ad jus et pro- " prietatem monaſterii ſtudeas legitime revocare," &c.

The conduct of the religious had now for ſome time been generally bad. Many of the monaſtic ſocieties, being very opulent, were become voluptuous and licentious, and had deviated entirely from their original inſtitutions. The laity ſaw with indignation the wealth and poſſeſſions of their pious anceſtors perverted to the ſervice of ſenſuality and indulgence; and ſpent in gratifications highly unbecoming the purpoſes for which they were

[q] Should have been no doubt *Southwick*, a priory under *Portſdown*.

[r] Mr. *Barrington* is of opinion that anciently the Engliſh *vinea* was in almoſt every inſtance an orchard; not perhaps always of apples merely, but of other fruits; as cherries, plums, and currants. We ſtill ſay a plum or cherry-orchard. See vol. III. of *Archæologia*.

In the inſtance above the pope's ſecretary might inſert *vineas* merely becauſe they were a ſpecies of cultivation familiar to him in *Italy*.

given.

given. A total diſregard to their reſpective rules and diſcipline drew on the monks and canons a heavy load of popular odium. Some good men there were who endeavoured to oppoſe the general delinquency; but their efforts were too feeble to ſtem the torrent of monaſtic luxury. As far back as the year 1381 *Wickliffe*'s principles and doctrines had made ſome progreſs, were well received by men who wiſhed for a reformation, and were defended and maintained by them as long as they dared; till the biſhops and clergy began to be ſo greatly alarmed, that they procured an act to be paſſed by which the ſecular arm was empowered to ſupport the corrupt doctrines of the church; but the firſt lollard was not burnt until the year 1401.

The wits alſo of thoſe times did not ſpare the groſs morals of the clergy, but boldly ridiculed their ignorance and profligacy. The moſt remarkable of theſe were *Chaucer*, and his contemporary *Robert Langelande*, better known by the name of *Piers Plowman*. The laughable tales of the former are familiar to almoſt every reader; while the *viſions* of the latter are but in few hands. With a quotation from the *Paſſus Decimus* of this writer I ſhall conclude my letter; not only on account of the remarkable prediction therein contained, which carries with it ſomewhat of the air of a prophecy; but alſo as it ſeems to have been a ſtriking picture of monaſtic inſolence and diſſipation; and a ſpecimen of one of the keeneſt pieces of ſatire now perhaps ſubſiſting in any language, ancient or modern.

" Now is religion a rider, a romer by ſtreate;
" A leader of love-days, and a loud begger;
" A pricker on a palfrey from maner to maner,
" A heape of hounds at his arſe, as he a lord were.

" And

" And but if his knave kneel, that ſhall his cope bring,
" He loureth at him, and aſketh him who taught him curteſie,
" Little had lords to done, to give lands from her heirs,
" To religious that have no ruth if it rain on her altars.
" In many places ther they perſons be, by himſelf at eaſe:
" Of the poor have they no pity, and that is her charitie;
" And they letten hem as lords, her lands lie ſo broad.
" And *there ſhal come a king* [r], and confeſs you religious;
" And beate you, as the bible telleth, for breaking your rule,
" And amend monials, and monks, and chanons,
" And put hem to her penaunce *ad priſtinum ſtatum ire.*"

[r] F. l. a. " This prediction, although a probable concluſion concerning a king who " after a time would ſuppreſs the religious houſes, is remarkable. I imagined it might " have been foiſted into the copies in the reign of king *Henry* VIII. but it is to be found " in MSS. of this poem, older than the year 1400." fol. l. a. b.

" Again, where he, *Piers Plowman*, alludes to the *Knights Templars*, lately ſup- " preſſed, he ſays

" —— —— —— Men of holie kirk
" Shall *turn as Templars* did; *the tyme approacheth nere.*"

" This, I ſuppoſe, was a favourite doctrine in *Wickliffe*'s diſcourſes."

Warton's Hiſt. of Engliſh Poetry, Vol. I. p. 282.

LETTER

LETTER XVIII.

WILLIAM of *Waynflete* became biſhop of *Wincheſter* in the year 1447, and ſeems to have purſued the generous plan of *Wykeham* in endeavouring to reform the Priory of *Selborne*.

When *Waynflete* came to the ſee he found prior *Stype*, alias *Stepe*, ſtill living, who had been elected as long ago as the year 1411.

Among my documents I find a curious paper of the things put into the cuſtody of *Peter Bernes* the ſacriſt, and eſpecially ſome *relics:* the title of this evidence is "N°. 50, Indentura "prioris de *Selborne* quorundam tradit. *Petro Bernes* ſacriſtæ, "ibidem, ann. Hen. VI. - - - una cum conſiſſ. ejuſdem *Petri* "ſcript." The occaſion of this catalogue, or liſt of effects, being drawn between the prior and ſacriſt does not appear, nor the date when; only that it happened in the reign of *Hen.* VI. This tranſaction probably took place when *Bernes* entered on his office; and there is the more reaſon to ſuppoſe that to be the caſe, becauſe the liſt conſiſts of veſtments and implements, and relics, ſuch as belonged to the church of the Priory, and fell under the care of the ſacriſt. For the numerous *items* I ſhall refer the curious reader to the Appendix, and ſhall juſt mention the relics, although they are not all ſpecified; and the ſtate of the live ſtock of the monaſtery at that juncture.

"Item

" Item 2. *oſculatōr.* argent.

" Item 1. *oſculatorium* cum *oſſe digiti auriculār.*—*Sti. Johannis Baptiſtæ* [s].

" Item 1. parvam *crucem* cum V. *reliquiis.*

" Item 1. *anulum* argent. et deauratum *St. Edmundi* [t].

" Item 2. *oſculat.* de coper.

" Item 1. *junctorium St. Ricardi* [u].

" Item 1. *pectен St. Ricardi* [x]."

The *ſtaurum*, or live ſtock, is quite ridiculous, conſiſting only of " 2 vacce, 1 ſus, 4 hoggett. et 4 porcell." viz. two cows, one ſow, four porkers, and four pigs.

[s] How the convent came by the bone of the little finger of *Saint John the Baptiſt* does not appear: probably the founder, while in *Paleſtine*, purchaſed it among the *Aſiatics*, who were at that time great traders in relics. We know from the beſt authority that as ſoon as *Herod* had cruelly beheaded that holy man " his diſciples came " and took up the body and buried it, and went and told *Jeſus*." Matt. iv. 12.—Farther would be difficult to ſay.

[t] *November* 20, in the calendar, *Edmund* king and martyr, in the 9th century. See alſo a *Sanctus Edmundus* in *Godwin*, among the archbiſhops of *Canterbury*, in the 13th century; his ſurname *Rich*, in 1234.

[u] *April* 3, ibid. *Richard* biſhop of *Chicheſter*, in the 13th century; his ſurname *De la Wich*, in 1245.

Junctorium, perhaps a *joint* or *limb* of St. *Richard*; but what particular joint the religious were not ſuch oſteologiſts as to ſpecify. This barbarous word was not to be found in any dictionary conſulted by the author.

[x] " *Pectен* inter miniſteria ſacra recenſetur, quo ſcil. ſacerdotes ac clerici, antequam " in eccleſiam procederent, crines pecterent. E quibus colligitur monachos, tunc " temporis, non omnino tonſos fuiſſe." *Du Freſne.*

The author remembers to have ſeen in great farm houſes a family comb chained to a poſt for the uſe of the hinds when they came in to their meals.

LETTER

LETTER XIX.

STEPE died towards the end of the year 1453, as we may ſuppoſe pretty far advanced in life, having been prior forty-four years.

On the very day that the vacancy happened, viz. *January* 26, 1453-4, the ſub-prior and convent petitioned the viſitor—" vos " unicum levamen noſtrum, et ſpem unanimiter rogamus, qua- " tinus eligendum ex nobis unum confratrem de gremio noſtro, " in noſtra religione probatum et expertem, licenciam veſtram " paternalem cum plena libertate nobis concedere dignemini " gracioſe." *Reg. Waynflete*, tom. I.

Inſtead of the licenſe requeſted we find next a commiſſion " cuſtodie prioratus de *Selebourne* durante vacatione," addreſſed to brother *Peter Berne*, canon-regular of the priory of *Selebourne*, and of the order of St. *Auguſtine*, appointing him keeper of the ſaid priory, and empowering him to collect and receive the profits and revenues, and " alia bona" of the ſaid priory; and to exerciſe in every reſpect the full power and authority of a prior; but to be reſponſible to the viſitor finally, and to maintain this ſuperiority during the biſhop's pleaſure only. This inſtrument is dated from the biſhop's manor-houſe in *Southwark*, *March* 1, 1453-4, and the ſeventh of his conſecration.

After this tranſaction it does not appear that the chapter of the Priory proceeded to any election; on the contrary, we find that at ſix months end from the vacancy the viſitor declared that a lapſe had taken place; and that therefore he did confer the priorſhip on canon *Peter Berne*.—" Prioratum vacantem et ad noſtram colla-" tionem, ſeu proviſionem jure ad nos in hac parte *per lapſum* " temporis legitime devoluto ſpectantem, tibi (ſc. *P. Berne)* de " legitimo matrimonio procreato, &c.—conferimus," &c. This deed bears date July 28, 1454.

Reg. Waynflete, tom. I. p. 69.

On *February* 8, 1462, the viſitor iſſued out a power of ſequeſtration againſt the Priory of *Selborne* on account of notorious dilapidations, which threatened manifeſt ruin to the roofs, walls, and edifices, of the ſaid convent; and appointing *John Hammond*, B. D. rector of the pariſh church of *Hetlegh*, *John Hylling*, vicar of the pariſh church of *Newton Valence*, and *Walter Gorfin*, inhabitant of the pariſh of *Selborne*, his ſequeſtrators, to exact, collect, levy, and receive, all the profits and revenues of the ſaid convent: he adds " ac ea ſub areto, et tuto cuſtodiatis, cuſtodirive faciatis;" as they would anſwer it to the biſhop at their peril.

In conſequence of theſe proceedings prior *Berne*, on the laſt day of *February*, and the next year, produced a ſtate of the revenues of the Priory, N°. 381, called " A paper conteyning the value of " the manors and lands pertayning to the Priory of *Selborne*. " 4 *Edward* III. with a note of charges yſſuing out of it."

This is a curious document, and will appear in the Appendix. From circumſtances in this paper it is plain that the ſequeſtration produced good effects; for in it are to be found bills of repairs to a conſiderable amount.

By

By this evidence alſo it appears that there were at that juncture only four canons at the Priory [u]; and that theſe, and their four houſehold ſervants, during this ſequeſtration for their clothing, wages, and diet, were allowed *per ann.* xxx lib.; and that the annual penſion of the lord prior, reſide where he would, was to be x lib.

In the year 1468, prior *Berne*, probably wearied out by the diſſenſions and want of order that prevailed in the convent, reſigned his priorſhip into the hands of the biſhop.

Reg. Waynflete, tom. I. pars 1ma, fol. 157.

March 28, A. D. 1468. "In quadam alta camera juxta magnam portam manerii of the biſhop of *Wynton de Waltham* coram eodem rev. patre ibidem tunc ſedente, *Peter Berne*, prior of *Selborne*, ipſum prioratum in ſacras, et venerabiles manus of the biſhop, viva voce libere reſignavit: and his reſignation was admitted before two witneſſes and a notary-public. In conſequence, *March* 29th, before the biſhop, in capella manerii ſui ante dicti pro tribunali ſedente, comparuerunt fratres" *Peter Berne*, *Thomas London*, *William Wyndeſor*, and *William Paynell*, alias *Stretford*, canons regular of the Priory, "capitulum, et conventum ejuſdem eccleſie facientes; ac jus et voces in electione futura prioris dicti prioratus ſolum et in ſolidum, ut aſſeruerunt, habentes;" and after the biſhop had notified to them the vacancy of a prior, with his free licenſe to elect, deliberated awhile, and then, by way of compromiſe, as they affirmed, unanimouſly tranſferred their right of election to the biſhop before witneſſes. In conſequence of this the biſhop, after full deliberation, proceeded,

[u] If biſhop *Wykeham* was ſo diſturbed (ſee *Notab. Viſitatio*) to find the number of canons reduced from fourteen to eleven, what would he have ſaid to have ſeen it diminiſhed below one third of that number?

April 7th, " in capella manerii ſui de *Waltham*," to the election of a prior; " et fratrem *Johannem Morton*, priorem eccleſie conventualis " de *Reygate* dicti ordinis S^ti^. *Auguſtini Wynton.* dioc. in priorem " vice et nomine omnium et ſingulorum canonicorum predictorum " elegit, in ordine ſacerdotali, et etate licita conſtitutum, &c." And on the ſame day, in the ſame place, and before the ſame witneſſes, *John Morton* reſigned to the biſhop the priorſhip of *Reygate viva voce.* The biſhop then required his conſent to his own election; " qui licet in parte renitens tanti reverendi patris ſe confirmans," obeyed, and ſignified his conſent *oraculo vive vocis.* Then was there a mandate citing any one who would gainſay the ſaid election to appear before the biſhop or his commiſſary in his chapel at *Farnham* on the ſecond day of *May* next. The dean of the deanery of *Aulton* then appeared before the chancellor, his commiſſary, and returned the citation or mandate dated *April* 22d, 1468, with ſignification, in writing, of his having publiſhed it as required, dated *Newton Valence*, *May* 1ſt, 1468. This certificate being read, the four canons of *Selborne* appeared and required the election to be confirmed; *et ex ſuper abundanti* appointed *William Long* their proctor to ſolicit in their name that he might be canonically confirmed. *John Morton* alſo appeared, and proclamation was made; and no one appearing againſt him, the commiſſary pronounced all abſentees contumacious, and precluded them from objecting at any other time; and, at the inſtance of *John Morton* and the proctor, confirmed the election by his decree, and directed his mandate to the rector of *Hedley* and the vicar of *Newton Valence* to inſtall him in the uſual form.

Thus,

Thus, for the firſt time, was a perſon, a ſtranger to the convent of *Selborne*, and never canon of that monaſtery, elected prior; though the ſtyle of the petitions in former elections uſed to run thus, — " Vos - - - - rogamus quatinus eligendum ex *nobis* " unum *confratrem* de *gremio noſtro*, — licentiam veſtram — nobis " concedere dignemini."

LETTER XX.

PRIOR *Morton* dying in 1471, two canons, by themſelves, proceeded to election, and choſe a prior; but two more (one of them *Berne)* complaining of not being ſummoned, objected to the proceedings as informal; till at laſt the matter was compromiſed that the biſhop ſhould again, for that turn, nominate as he had before. But the circumſtances of this election will be beſt explained by the following extract:

REG. WAYNFLETE, tom. II, pars 1ma, fol. 7.

Memorandum. A. D. 1471. Auguſt 22.

William Wyndeſor, a canon-regular of the Priory of *Selburne*, having been elected prior on the death of brother *John*, appeared in perſon before the biſhop in his chapel at *South Waltham*. He

was

was attended on this occaſion by *Thomas London* and *John Bromeſgrove*, canons, who had elected him. *Peter Berne* and *William Stratfeld*, canons, alſo preſented themſelves at the ſame time, complaining that in this buſineſs they had been overlooked, and not ſummoned; and that therefore the validity of the election might with reaſon be called in queſtion, and quarrels and diſſenſions might probably ariſe between the newly choſen prior and the parties thus neglected.

After ſome altercation and diſpute they all came to an agreement with the new prior, that what had been done ſhould be rejected and annulled; and that they would again, for this turn, transfer to the biſhop their power to elect, order, and provide them another prior, whom they promiſed unanimouſly to admit.

The biſhop accepted of this offer before witneſſes; and on *September* 27, in an inner chamber near the chapel abovementioned, after full deliberation, choſe brother *Thomas Fairwiſe*, vicar of *Somborne*, a canon-regular of Saint *Auguſtine* in the Priory of *Bruſwough*, in the dioceſe of *Coventry* and *Litchfield*, to be prior of *Selborne*. The form is nearly as above in the laſt election. The canons are again enumerated; *W. Wyndeſor*, ſub-prior, *P. Berne*, *T. London*, *W. Stratfeld*, *J. Bromeſgrove*, who had formed the chapter, and had requeſted and obtained licenſe to elect, but had unanimouſly conferred their power on the biſhop. In conſequence of this proceeding, the biſhop taking the buſineſs upon himſelf, that the Priory might not ſuffer detriment for want of a governor, appoints the aforeſaid *T. Fairwiſe* to be prior. A citation was ordered as above for gainſayers to appear *October* 4th, before the biſhop or his commiſſaries at *South Waltham*; but none appearing, the commiſſaries admitted the ſaid *Thomas*, ordered him to be inſtalled,

ſtalled, and ſent the uſual letter to the convent to render him due obedience.

Thus did the biſhop of *Wincheſter* a ſecond time appoint a ſtranger to be prior of *Selborne*, inſtead of one choſen out of the chapter. For this ſeeming irregularity the viſitor had no doubt good and ſufficient reaſons, as probably may appear hereafter.

LETTER XXI.

WHATEVER might have been the abilities and diſpoſition of prior *Fairwiſe*, it could not have been in his power to have brought about any material reformation in the Priory of *Selborne*, becauſe he departed this life in the month of *Auguſt* 1472, before he had preſided one twelvemonth.

As ſoon as their governor was buried the chapter applied to their viſitor for leave to chuſe a new prior, which being granted, after deliberating for a time, they proceeded to an election by a *ſcrutiny*. But as this mode of voting has not been deſcribed but by the mere form in the *Appendix*, an extract from the biſhop's regiſter, repreſenting the manner more fully, may not be diſagreeable to ſeveral readers.

WAYNEFLETE REG. tom. II. pars 1^ma^, fol. 15.

" Reverendo &c. ac noſtro patrono gracioſiſſimo veſtri humiles, " et devote obedientie filii," &c.

To

To the right reverend Father in God, and our moſt gracious patron, we, your obedient and devoted ſons, *William Wyndeſor*, preſident of the chapter of the Priory of *Selborne*, and the convent of that place, do make known to your lordſhip, that our priorſhip being lately vacant by the death of *Thomas Fairwiſe*, our late prior, who died Auguſt 11th, 1472, having committed his body to decent ſepulture, and having requeſted, according to cuſtom, leave to elect another, and having obtained it under your ſeal, we, *William Wyndeſor*, preſident of the convent on the 29th of Auguſt, in our chapter-houſe aſſembled, and making a chapter, taking to us in this buſineſs *Richard ap Jenkyn*, and *Galfrid Bryan*, chaplains, that our ſaid Priory might not by means of this vacancy incur harm or loſs, unanimouſly agreed on *Auguſt* the laſt for the day of election; on which day, having firſt celebrated maſs, "De ſancto ſpiritu," at the high altar, and having called a chapter by tolling a bell about ten o' the clock, we, *William Wyndeſor*, preſident, *Peter Berne*, *Thomas London*, and *William Stratfield*, canons, who alone had voices, being the only canons, about ten o' the clock, firſt ſung "Veni Creator," the letters and licenſe being read in the preſence of many perſons there. Then *William Wyndeſor*, in his own name, and that of all the canons, made ſolemn proclamation, enjoining all who had no right to vote to depart out of the chapter-houſe. When all were withdrawn except *Guyllery de Lacuna*, in decretis Baccalarius, and *Robert Peverell*, notary-public, and alſo the two chaplains, the firſt was requeſted to ſtay, that he might direct and inform us in the mode of election; the other, that he might record and atteſt the tranſactions; and the two laſt that they might be witneſſes to them.

Then

Then, having read the conſtitution of the general council "Quia propter," and the forms of elections contained in it being ſufficiently explained to them by *De Lacuna*, as well in Latin as the vulgar tongue, and having deliberated in what mode to proceed in this election, they reſolved on that of *ſcrutiny*. Three of the canons, *Wyndeſor*, *Berne*, and *London*, were made *ſcrutators: Berne*, *London*, and *Stratfeld*, chuſing *Wyndeſor*; *Wyndeſor*, *London*, and *Stratfeld*, chuſing *Berne*; *Wyndeſor*, *Berne*, and *Stratfeld*, chuſing *London*.

They were empowered to take each other's vote, and then that of *Stratfeld*; "et ad inferiorem partem angularem" of the chapter-houſe, "juxta oſtium ejuſdem declinentes," with the other perſons, (except *Stratfeld*, who ſtaid behind) proceeded to voting, two ſwearing, and taking the voice of the third, in ſucceſſion, privately. *Wyndeſor* voted firſt: "Ego credo *Petrum Berne* meliorem et utili-"orem ad regimen iſtius eccleſie, et in ipſum conſentio, ac eum "nomino," &c. *Berne* was next ſworn, and in like manner nominated *Wyndeſor*; *London* nominated *Berne: Stratfeld* was then called and ſworn, and nominated *Berne*.

"Quibus in ſcriptis redactis," by the notary-public, they returned to the upper part of the chapter-houſe, where by *Wyndeſor* "ſic purecta fecerunt in communi," and then ſolemnly, in form written, declared the election of *Berne:* when all, "antedicto "noſtro electo excepto, approbantes et ratificantes, cepimus "decantare ſolemniter '*Te Deum laudamus*,' et ſic canentes dictum "electum ad majus altare eccleſie deduximus, ut apud nos eſt "moris. Then *Wyndeſor* electionem clero et populo infra chorum "dicte eccleſie congregatis publicavit, et perſonam electi publice "et perſonaliter oſtendit." We then returned to the chapter-houſe, except our prior; and *Wyndeſor* was appointed by the other two

their proctor, to desire the assent of the elected, and to notify what had been done to the bishop; and to desire him to confirm the election, and do whatever else was necessary. Then their proctor, before the witnesses, required *Berne*'s assent in the chapter-house: "qui quidem instanciis et precibus multiplicatis devictus," consented, "licet indignus electus," in writing. They therefore request the bishop's confirmation of their election "sic canonice "et solemniter celebrata," &c. &c. Sealed with their common seal, and subscribed and attested by the notary. Dat. in the chapter-house *September* 5th. 1472.

In consequence, *September* 11th, 1472, in the bishop's chapel at *Esher*, and before the bishop's commissary, appeared *W. Wyndesor*, and exhibited the above instrument, and a mandate from the bishop for the appearance of gainsayers of the election there on that day:—and no one appearing, the absentees were declared contumacious, and the election confirmed; and the vicar of *Aulton* was directed to induct and install the prior in the usual manner.

Thus did canon *Berne*, though advanced in years, reassume his abdicated priorship for the second time, to the no small satisfaction, as it may seem, of the bishop of *Winchester*, who professed, as will be shown not long hence, an high opinion of his abilities and integrity.

LETTER

LETTER XXII.

As prior *Berne*, when chosen in 1454, held his priorship only to 1468, and then made a voluntary resignation, wearied and disgusted, as we may conclude, by the disorder that prevailed in his convent; it is no matter of wonder that, when re-chosen in 1472, he should not long maintain his station; as old age was then coming fast upon him, and the increasing anarchy and misrule of that declining institution required unusual vigour and resolution to stem that torrent of profligacy which was hurrying it on to it's dissolution. We find, accordingly, that in 1478 he resigned his dignity again into the hands of the bishop.

WAYNFLETE REG. fol. 55.

Resignatio Prioris de Seleborne.

May 14, 1478. *Peter Berne* resigned the priorship. *May* 16 the bishop admitted his resignation "in manerio suo *de Waltham*," and declared the priorship void; "et priorat. solacio destitutum "esse;" and granted his letters for proceeding to a new election: when all the religious, assembled in the chapter-house, did transfer their power under their seal to the bishop, by the following public instrument.

" In Dei nomine Amen," &c. A. D. 1478, Maii 19. In the chapter-houſe for the election of a prior for that day, on the free reſignation of *Peter Berne*, having celebrated in the firſt place maſs at the high altar " De ſpiritu ſancto," and having called a chapter by tolling a bell, *ut moris eſt*; in the preſence of a notary and witneſſes appeared perſonally *Peter Berne*, *Thomas Aſhford*, *Stephen Clydgrove*, and *John Aſhton*, preſbyters, and *Henry Canwood*[x], in chapter aſſembled; and after ſinging the hymn ' *Veni Creator Spiritus*,' " cum verſiculo et oratione ' *Deus qui corda*;' declarataque li- " centia Fundatoris et patroni; futurum priorem eligendi con- " ceſſa, et conſtitutione conſilii generalis que incipit ' *Quia* " *propter*' declaratis; viiſque per quas poſſent ad hanc electionem " procedere," by the *decretorum doctorem*, whom the canons had taken to direct them—they all and every one " dixerunt et affir- " marunt ſe nolle ad aliquam viam procedere :—but, for this turn only, renounced their right, and unanimouſly transferred their power to the biſhop, the ordinary of the place, promiſing to receive whom he ſhould provide; and appointed a proctor to preſent the inſtrument to the biſhop under their ſeal; and required their notary to draw it up in due form, &c. ſubſcribed by the notary.

After the viſitor had fully deliberated on the matter, he proceeded to the choice of a prior, and elected, by the following inſtrument, *John Sharp*, alias *Glaſtenbury*.

[x] Here we ſee that all the canons were changed in ſix years; and that there was quite a new chapter, *Berne* excepted, between 1472 and 1478; for, inſtead of *Wyndeſor*, *London*, and *Stratfeld*, we find *Aſhford*, *Clydgrove*, *Aſhton*, and *Canwood*, all new men, who were ſoon gone in their turn off the ſtage, and are heard of no more. For, in ſix years after, there ſeem to have been no canons at all.

Fol.

Fol. 56. PROVISIO PRIORIS per EPM.

Willmus, &c. to our beloved brother in CHRIST *John Sharp*, alias *Glaſtenbury*, Eccleſie conventualis de *Bruton*, of the order of St. *Auſtin*, in the dioceſe of *Bath* and *Wells*, canon-regular—*ſalutem* &c. " De tue circumſpectionis induſtria plurimum confidentes, " te virum providum et diſcretum, literarum ſcientia, et moribus " merito commendandum," &c.—do appoint you prior—under our ſeal. " Dat. in manerio noſtro de *Suthwaltham*, *May* 20," 1478, " et noſtre Conſec. 31.

Thus did the biſhop, three times out of the four that he was at liberty to nominate, appoint a prior from a diſtance, a ſtranger to the place, to govern the convent of *Selborne*, hoping by this method to have broken the cabal, and to have interrupted that habit of miſmanagement that had pervaded the ſociety: but he acknowledges, in an evidence lying before us, that he never did ſucceed to his wiſhes with reſpect to thoſe late governors,—" quos " tamen male ſe habuiſſe, et inutiliter adminiſtrare, et admini- " ſtraſſe uſque ad preſentia tempora poſt debitam inveſtigationem, " &c. invenit." The only time that he appointed from among the canons, he made choice of *Peter Berne*, for whom he had conceived the greateſt eſteem and regard.

When prior *Berne* firſt relinquiſhed his priorſhip, he returned again to his former condition of canon, in which he continued for ſome years: but when he was re-choſen, and had abdicated a ſecond time, we find him in a forlorn ſtate, and in danger of being reduced to beggary, had not the biſhop of *Winchester* interpoſed in his favour, and with great humanity inſiſted on a proviſion for him

him for life. The reaſon for this difference ſeems to have been, that, in the firſt caſe, though in years, he might have been hale and capable of taking his ſhare in the duty of the convent; in the ſecond, he was broken with age, and no longer equal to the functions of a canon.

Impreſſed with this idea the biſhop very benevolently interceded in his favour, and laid his injunctions on the new-elected prior in the following manner.

Fol. 56. " In Dei nomine Amen. Nos *Willmus*, &c. conſide-
" rantes *Petrum Berne*," late prior " in adminiſtratione ſpiritualium
" et temporalium prioratus laudabiliter vixiſſe et rexiſſe; ipſumque
" ſenio et corporis debilitate confractum; ne in opprobrium
" religionis *mendicari cogatur*;—eidem annuam penſionem a Domino
" *Johanne Sharp*, alias *Glaſtonbury*, priore moderno," and his ſucceſſors, and, from the Priory or church, to be payed every year during his life, " de voluntate et ex conſenſu expreſſis" of the ſaid *John Sharp*, " ſub ea que ſequitur forma verborum — aſſig-
" namus :

1ſt. That the ſaid prior and his ſucceſſors, for the time being, *honeſte exhibebunt* of the fruits and profits of the priorſhip, " eidem
" eſculenta et poculenta," while he remained in the Priory " ſub
" conſimili portione eorundem prout convenienter priori," for the time being, *miniſtrari contigerit*; and in like manner *uni famulo*, whom he ſhould chuſe to wait on him, as to the *ſervientibus* of the prior.

Item. " Invenient ſeu exhibebunt eidem unam honeſtam came-
" ram" in the Priory, " cum focalibus neceſſariis ſeu opportunis
" ad eundem.

Item.

Item. We will, ordain, &c. to the ſaid *P. Berne* an annual penſion of ten marks, from the revenue of the Priory, to be paid by the hands of the prior quarterly.

The biſhop decrees farther, that *John Sharp*, and his ſucceſſors, ſhall take an oath to obſerve this injunction, and that before their inſtallation.

" Lecta et facta ſunt hæc in quodam alto oratorio," belonging to the biſhop at *Suthwaltham*, *May* 25, 1478, in the preſence of *John Sharp*, who gave his aſſent, and then took the oath before witneſſes, with the other oaths before the chancellor, who decreed he ſhould be inducted and inſtalled; as was done that ſame day.

How *John Sharp*, alias *Glaſtonbury*, acquitted himſelf in his prior-ſhip, and in what manner he made a vacancy, whether by reſignation, or death, or whether he was removed by the viſitor, does not appear; we only find that ſome time in the year 1484 there was no prior, and that the biſhop nominated canon *Aſtford* to fill the vacancy.

LETTER

LETTER XXIII.

THIS *Thomas Aſſeford* was moſt undoubtedly the laſt prior of *Selborne*; and therefore here will be the proper place to ſay ſomething concerning a liſt of the priors, and to endeavour to improve that already given by others.

At the end of biſhop *Tanner's Notitia Monaſtica*, the folio edition, among *Brown Willis's Principals* of *Religious Houſes* occur the names of eleven of the priors of *Selborne*, with dates. But this liſt is imperfect, and particularly at the beginning; for though the Priory was founded in 1232, yet it commences with *Nich. de Cantia*, elected in 1262; ſo that for the firſt thirty years no prior is mentioned; yet there muſt have been one or more. We were in hopes that the regiſter of *Peter de Rupibus* would have rectified this omiſſion; but, when it was examined, no information of the ſort was to be found. From the year 1410 the liſt is much corrected and improved; and the reader may depend on it's being thence forward very exact.

A LIST

A List *of the* Priors *of* Selborne Priory, *from* Brown Willis's Principals *of* Religious Houſes, *with additions within* [ ] *by the author.*

[*John* - - - was prior, *ſine dat.*][y]
Nich. de Cantia el. - - - - 1262.
[*Peter* —— was prior in - - - 1271.]
[*Richard* —— was prior in - - - 1280.]
Will. Baſing was prior in - - - 1299.
Walter de Inſula el. in - - - - 1324.
[Some difficulties, and a devolution; but the election confirmed by biſhop *Stratford.*]
John de Wintōn - - - - - 1339.
Thomas Weſton - - - - - 1377.
John Wincheſter, [*Wyncheſtre*] - - 1410.
[Elected by biſhop *Beaufort* "per viam vel formam "ſimplicis compromiſſi.]
[*John Stype*, alias *Stepe*, in - - - - 1411.]
Peter Bene [alias *Berne* or *Bernes*, appointed keeper, and, by lapſe to biſhop *Wayneflete*, prior] in - - 1454.
[He reſigns in 1468.]
John Morton, [Prior of *Reygate*] in - - 1468.
[The canons by compromiſe transfer the power of election to the biſhop.]

[y] See, in Letter XI. of theſe Antiquities, the reaſon why prior *John* - - -, who had tranſactions with the *Knight's Templars*, is placed in the liſt before the year 1262.

Will. Winſor [*Wyndeſor*, prior for a few days] 1471.
[but removed on account of an irregular election.]
Thomas Farwill [*Fairwiſe*, vicar of *Somborne*] 1471.
[by compromiſe again elected by the biſhop.]
[*Peter Berne*, re-elected by ſcrutiny in - - - 1472,]
[reſigns again in 1478.]
John Sharper [*Sharp*] alias *Glaſtonbury*. 1478.
[Canon-reg. of *Bruton*, elected by the biſhop by compromiſe.]
[*Thomas Aſhford*, canon of *Selborne*, laſt prior elected by the biſhop of *Wincheſter*, ſome time in the year - - 1484,
and depoſed at the diſſolution.]

LETTER

LETTER XXIV.

Bishop *Wayneflete*'s efforts to continue the Priory ſtill proved unſucceſsful; and the convent, without any canons, and for ſome time without a prior, was tending ſwiftly to it's diſſolution.

When *Sharp*'s, alias *Glaſtonbury*'s, priorſhip ended does not appear. The biſhop ſays that he had been obliged to remove ſome priors for male-adminiſtration: but it is not well explained how that could be the caſe with any, unleſs with *Sharp*; becauſe all the others, choſen during his epiſcopate, died in their office, *viz.* *Morton* and *Fairwiſe*; *Berne* only excepted, who relinquiſhed twice voluntarily, and was moreover approved of by *Wayneflete* as a perſon of integrity. But the way to ſhew what ineffectual pains the biſhop took, and what difficulties he met with, will be to quote the words of the libel of his proctor *Radulphus Langley*, who appeared for the biſhop in the proceſs of the impropriation of the Priory of *Selborne*. The extract is taken from an atteſted copy.

" *Item*—that the ſaid biſhop—dicto prioratui et perſonis ejuſdem " pie compatiens, ſollicitudines paſtorales, labores, et diligentias " graviſſimas quam plurimas, tam per ſe quam per ſuos, pro re- " formatione premiſſorum impendebat: et aliquando illius loci " prioribus, propter malam et inutilem adminiſtrationem, et diſ- " penſationem bonorum predicti prioratus, ſuis demeritis exigen-

" tibus, amotis; alios priores in quorum circumſpectione et " diligentia confidebat, prefecit: quos tamen male ſe habuiſſe ac " inutiliter adminiſtrare, et adminiſtraſſe, uſque ad preſentia tem- " pora poſt debitam inveſtigationem, &c. invenit." So that he deſpaired with all his care—" ſtatum ejuſdem reparare vel reſtau- " rare: et conſiderata temporis malicia, et preteritis timendo et " conjecturando futura, de aliqua bona et ſancta religione ejuſdem " ordinis, &c. juxta piam intentionem primevi fundatoris ibidem " habend. deſperatur."

William Wainfleet, biſhop of *Wincheſter*, founded his college of Saint *Mary Magdalene*, in the univerſity of *Oxford*, in or about the year 1459; but the revenues proving inſufficient for ſo large and noble an eſtabliſhment, the college ſupplicated the founder to augment it's income by putting it in poſſeſſion of the eſtates belonging to the Priory of *Selborne*, now become a deſerted convent, without canons or prior. The preſident and fellows ſtate the circumſtances of their numerous inſtitution and ſcanty proviſion, and the ruinous and perverted condition of the Priory. The biſhop appoints commiſſaries to inquire into the ſtate of the ſaid monaſtery; and, if found expedient, to confirm the appropriation of it to the college, which ſoon after appoints attornies to take poſſeſſion, *September* 24, 1484. But the way to give the reader a thorough inſight reſpecting this tranſaction, will be to tranſcribe a farther proportion of the proceſs of the impropriation from the beginning, which will lay open the manner of proceeding, and ſhew the conſent of the parties.

IMPROPRIATIO SELBORNE, 1485.

" Univerſis ſancte matris eccleſie filiis, &c. *Ricardus* Dei " gratia *prior* eccleſie conventualis de *Novo Loco*, &c[z]. ad uni- " verſitatem veſtre notitie deducimus, &c. quod coram nobis " commiſſario predicto in eccleſia parochiali S^ti. *Georgii de Eſſher*, " dict. *Winton.* dioc. 3°. die *Auguſti*, A. D. 1485. Indictione tertia " pontificat. *Innocentii* 8^vi. ann. 1^mo. judicialiter comparuit venera- " bilis vir *Jacobus Preſton*, S. T. P. infraſcriptus, et exhibuit " literas commiſſionis—quas quidem per magiſtrum *Thomam* " *Somercotes* notarium publicum, &c. legi fecimus, tenorem ſe- " quentem in ſe continentes." The ſame as N°. 103, but dated —" In manerio noſtro *de Eſſher*, *Auguſti*, 1^mo. A. D. 1485, et " noſtre conſec. anno 39." [N°. 103 is repeated in a book containing the like proceſs in the preceding year by the ſame commiſſary, in the pariſh church of St. *Andrew* the apoſtle, at *Farnham*, *Sept.* 6th, anno 1484.] " Poſt quarum literarum lectu- " ram—dictus magiſter *Jacobus Preſton*, quaſdam procuratorias " literas mag. *Richardi Mayewe* preſidentis, ut aſſeruit, *collegii beate* " *Marie Magdalene*, &c. ſigillo rotundo communi, &c. in cera " rubea impreſſo ſigillatas realiter exhibuit, &c. et pro eiſdem " dnis ſuis, &c. fecit ſe partem, ac nobis ſupplicavit ut juxta

[z] *Eccleſia Conventualis* de *Novo Loco* was the monaſtery afterwards called the *New Miniſter*, or *Abbey* of *Hyde*, in the city of *Wincheſter*. Should any intelligent reader wonder to ſee that the *prior* of *Hyde Abbey* was commiſſary to the biſhop of *Winton*, and ſhould conclude that there was a miſtake in titles, and that the *abbot* muſt have been here meant; he will be pleaſed to recollect that this perſon was the ſecond in rank; for, " next under the abbot, in every abbey, was the prior." Pref. to Notit. Monaſt. p. xxix. Beſides, abbots were great perſonages, and too high in ſtation to ſubmit to any office under the biſhop.

" formam

" formam in eiſdem traditam procedere dignaremur, &c." After theſe proclamations no contradictor or abjector appearing—" ad " inſtantem petitionem ipſius mag. *Jac. Preſton*, procuratoris, &c. " procedendum fore decrevimus vocatis jure vocandis; nec non " mag. *Tho. Somercotes*, &c. in actorum noſtrorum ſcribam nomi- " navimus. Conſequenter et ibidem tunc comparuit magiſter " *Michael Clyff*, &c. et exhibuit in ea parte procuratorium ſuum," for the prior and convent of the cathedral of *Winton*, " et fecit " ſe partem pro eiſdem.—Deinde comperuit coram nobis, &c. " honeſtus vir *Willmus Cowper*," proctor for the biſhop as patron of the Priory of *Selborne*, and exhibited his " procuratorium, &c." After theſe were read in the preſence of *Clyff* and *Cowper*, " *Preſ-* " *ton*, viva voce," petitioned the commiſſary to annex and appropriate the Priory of *Selborne* to the college—" propter quod " fructus, redditus, et proventus ejuſdem coll. adeo tenues ſunt, " et exiles, quod ad ſuſtentationem ejus, &c. non ſufficiunt."—The commiſſary, " ad libellandum et articulandum in ſcriptis"— adjourned the court to the 5th of *Auguſt*, then to be held again in the pariſh church of *Eſher*.

W. Cowper being then abſent, *Radulphus Langley* appeared for the biſhop, and was admitted his proctor. *Preſton* produced his libel or article in ſcriptis for the union, &c. " et admitti petiit " eundem cum effectu; cujus libelli tenor ſequitur.—In Dei " nomine, Amen. Coram nobis venerabili in Chriſto patre " *Richardo*, priore, &c. de *Novo Loco*, &c. commiſſario, &c." Part of the college of Magd. dicit. allegat, and in his " ſcriptis " proponit, &c."

" *Imprimis*

" *Imprimis*—that ſaid college conſiſts of a preſident and eighty " ſcholars, beſides ſixteen choriſters, thirteen ſervientes inibi al- " tiſſimo famulaturibus, et in ſcientiis pleriſque liberalibus, pre- " ſertim in ſacra theologia ſtudentibus, nedum ad ipſorum preſi- " dentis et ſcholarium pro preſenti et impoſterum, annuente deo, " incorporandorum in eodem relevamen; verum etiam ad omnium " et ſingulorum tam ſcholarium quam religioſorum cujuſcunque " ordinis undequaque illuc confluere pro ſalubri doctrina volen- " tium utilitatem multiplicem ad incrementa virtutis fideique " catholice ſtabilimentum. Ita videlicet quod omnes et ſinguli " abſque perſonarum ſeu nationum delectu illuc accedere volentes, " lecturas publicas et doctrinas tam in grammatica in loco ad " collegium contiguo, ac philoſophiis morali et naturali, quam " in ſacra theologia in eodem collegio perpetuis temporibus con- " tinuandas libere atque gratis audire valeant et poſſint, ad " laudem gloriam et honorem Dei, &c. extitit fundatum et " ſtabilitum."

For the firſt *item* in this proceſs ſee the beginning of this letter. Then follows *item* the ſecond—" that the revenues of the college non " ſufficiunt his diebus." " *Item*—that the premiſſes are true, &c. " et ſuper eiſdem laborarunt, et laborant publica vox et fama. " Unde facta fide petit pars eorundem that the Priory be annexed " to the college: ita quod dicto prioratu vacante liceat iis ex " tunc to take poſſeſſion, &c." This libel, with the expreſs conſent of the other proctors, we, the commiſſary, admitted, and appointed the ſixth of *Auguſt* for proctor *Preſton* to prove the premiſſes.

Preſton produced witneſſes, *W. Gyfford*, S. T. P. *John Nele*, A. M. *John Chapman*, chaplain, and *Robert Baron*, literatus, who were admitted and ſworn, when the court was prorogued to the 6th of *Auguſt*;

Auguſt; and the witneſſes, on the ſame 5th of *Auguſt*, were examined by the commiſſary, "in capella infra manerium de *Eſſher* ſituata, "ſecrete et ſingillatim." Then follow the "literæ procuratoriæ:" firſt that of the college, appointing *Preſton* and *Langport* their proctors, dated *Auguſt* 30th, 1484; then that of the prior and convent of the cathedral of *Wintōn*, appointing *David Huſband* and *Michael Cleve*, dated *September* 4th, 1484: then that of the biſhop, appointing *W. Gyfford*, *Radulphus Langley*, and *Will. Cowper*, dated *September* 5d, 1484. Conſec. 38°.—"Quo die adveniente "in dicta eccleſia parochiali," appeared "coram nobis" *James Preſton* to prove the contents of his libel, and exhibited ſome letters teſtimonial with the ſeal of the biſhop, and theſe were admitted; and conſequenter *Preſton* produced two witneſſes, viz. Dominum *Thomam Aſhforde nuper priorem dicti prioratus*, et *Willm. Rabbys* literatum, who were admitted and ſworn, and examined as the others, by the commiſſary; "tunc & ibidem aſſiſtente ſcriba ſecrete & ſingillatim;" and their depoſitions were read and made public, as follows:

Mr. *W. Gyfford*, S. T. P. aged 57, of the ſtate of *Magd. Coll.* &c. &c. as before:

Mr. *John Nele*, aged 57, proves the articles alſo:

Robert Baron, aged 56:

Johannes Chapman, aged 35, alſo affirmed all the five articles:

Dompnus *Thomas Aſhforde*, aged 72 years—"dicit 2^{dum}. 3^{um}. 4^{um}. "articulos in eodem libello contentos, concernentes ſtatum dicti "prioratus de *Selebourne*, fuiſſe et eſſe veros."

W. Rabbys, ætat 40 ann. agrees with *Gyfford*, &c.

Then follows the letter from the biſhop, "in ſubſidium pro-"bationis," abovementioned—"*Willmus*, &c. ſalutem, &c. "noverint univerſitas veſtra, quod licet nos prioratui de *Sele-"bourne*, &c. pie compacientes ſollicitudines paſtorales, labores, "diligentias

" diligentias quam plurimas per nos & commiſſarios noſtros pro " reformatione ſtatus ejus impenderimus, juſticia id poſcente; " nihilominus tamen," &c. as in the article — to " deſperatur," dated " in manerio noſtro de *Eſher*, *Aug.* 3d, 1485, & conſec. 39." Then, on the 6th of *Auguſt*, *Preſton*, in the preſence of the other proctors, required that they ſhould be compelled to anſwer; when they all allowed the articles " fuiſſe & eſſe vera;" and the commiſſary, at the requeſt of *Preſton*, concluded the buſineſs, and appointed *Monday*, *Auguſt* 8th, for giving his decree in the ſame church of *Eſher*; and it was that day read, and contains a recapitulation, with the ſentence of union, &c. witneſſed and atteſted.

As ſoon as the preſident and fellows of *Magdalen college* had obtained the deciſion of the commiſſary in their favour, they proceeded to ſupplicate the *pope*, and to entreat his holineſs that he would give his ſanction to the ſentence of union. Some difficulties were ſtarted at *Rome*; but they were ſurmounted by the college agent, as appears by his letters from that city. At length *pope Innocent* VIII. by a *bull*[a] bearing date the 8th day of *June*, in the year of our Lord 1486, and in the ſecond year of his pontificate, confirmed what had been done, and ſuppreſſed the convent.

Thus fell the conſiderable and well-endowed Priory of *Selborne* after it had ſubſiſted about two hundred and fifty-four years: about ſeventy-four years after the ſuppreſſion of Priories alien by *Henry* V. and about fifty years before the general diſſolution of monaſteries by *Henry* VIII. The founder, it is probable, had

[a] There is nothing remarkable in this *bull* of *pope Innocent* except the ſtatement of the annual revenue of the Priory of *Selborne*, which is therein eſtimated at 160 *flor. auri*; whereas biſhop *Godwin* ſets it at 337*l.* 15*s.* 6¾*d.* Now a *floren*, ſo named, ſays Camden, becauſe made by *Florentines*, was a gold coin of king *Edward* III. in value 6*s.* whereof 160 is not one ſeventh part of 337*l.* 15*s.* 6¾*d.*

fondly imagined that the ſacredneſs of the inſtitution, and the pious motives on which it was eſtabliſhed, might have preſerved it inviolate to the end of time—yet it fell,

" To teach us that God attributes to *place*
" No ſanctity, if none be thither brought
" By men, who there frequent, or therein dwell."
Milton's Paradiſe Loſt.

LETTER XXV.

WAINFLEET did not long enjoy the ſatisfaction ariſing from this new acquiſition; but departed this life in a few months after he had effected the union of the Priory with his late founded college; and was ſucceeded in the ſee of *Winchester* by *Peter Courtney*, ſome time towards the end of the year 1486.

In the beginning of the following year the new biſhop releaſed the preſident and fellows of *Magdalen College* from all actions reſpecting the Priory of *Selborne*; and the prior and convent of Saint *Swithun*, as the chapter of *Winchester* cathedral, confirmed the releaſe [a].

N. 293. " Relaxatio *Petri* epi *Wintōn Ricardo Mayew*, Preſi-
" denti omnium actionum occaſione indempnitatis ſibi debite pro
" unione Prioratus de *Selborne* dicto collegio. *Jan.* 2. 1487. et
" tranſlat. anno 1°."

N. 374. " Relaxatio *prioris* et *conventus* S^ti. *Swithini Wintōn*
" confirmans relaxationem *Petri* ep. *Winton.*" 1487. *Jan.* 13.

[a] The biſhops of *Winchester* were patrons of the Priory.

Aſſheforde,

Aſſhforde, the depoſed prior, who had appeared as an evidence for the impropriation of the Priory at the age of ſeventy-two years, that he might not be deſtitute of a maintenance, was penſioned by the college to the day of his death; and was living on till 1490, as appears by his acquittances.

REG. A. ff. 46.

"Omnibus Chriſti fidelibus ad quos preſens ſcriptum per-
"venerit, *Richardus Mayew*, preſidens, &c. et ſcolares, ſalutem in
"Domino."

"Noveritis nos prefatos preſidentem et ſcolares dediſſe, conceſ-
"ſiſſe, et hoc preſenti ſcripto confirmaſſe *Thome Aſſhforde, capellano*,
"quendam annualem redditum ſex librarum treſdecim ſoli-
"dorum et quatuor denariorum bone et legalis monete
'Anglie—ad terminum vite prefati *Thome*"—to be paid from the poſſeſſions of the college in *Baſingſtoke*.—"In cujus rei teſtimo-
"nium ſigillum noſtrum commune preſentibus apponimus.
"Dat. Oxon. in coll. noſtro ſupra dicto primo die menſis *Junii*
"anno regis *Ricardi* tertii ſecundo." viz. 1484. The college, in their grant to *Aſſhforde*, ſtyle him only *capellanus*; but the annuitant very naturally, and with a becoming dignity, aſſerts his late title in his acquittances, and identifies himſelf by the addition of *nuper priorem*, or late prior.

As, according to the perſuaſion of the times, the depriving the founder and benefactors of the Priory of their maſſes and ſervices would have been deemed the moſt impious of frauds, biſhop *Wainfleet*, having by ſtatute ordained four *obits* for himſelf to be celebrated in the chapel of *Magdalen College*, enjoined in one of them a ſpecial collect for the anniverſary of *Peter de Rupibus*, with a particular prayer—"*Deus Indulgentiarum.*"

The college alſo ſent *Nicholas Langriſh*, who had been a chantry prieſt at *Selborne*, to celebrate maſs for the ſouls of all that had been benefactors to the ſaid Priory and college, and for all the faithful who had departed this life.

N. 356. *Thomas Knowles*, preſidens, &c.—" damus et con-
" cedimus *Nicholao Langriſh* quandum capellaniam, vel ſalarium,
" ſive alio quocunque nomine cenſeatur, in prioratu *quondam* de
" *Selborne* pro termino 40 annorum, ſi tam diu vixerit. Ubi
" dictus magr. *Nicholaus* celebrabit pro animabus omnium bene-
" factorum dicti prioratus et coll. noſtri, et omnium fidelium
" defunctorum. Inſuper nos, &c. concedimus eidem ibidem
" celebranti in ſuſtentationem ſuam quandam annualem penſi-
" onem ſive annuitatem octo librarum &c.—in dicta capella
" dicti prioratus—concedimus duas cameras contiguas ex parte
" boreali dicte capelle, cum *una coquina*, et cum uno ſtabulo
" conveniente pro tribus equis, cum pomerio eidem adjacente voc.
" le *Orcheyard*—Preterea 26s. 8d. per ann. ad inveniendum unum
" clericum ad ſerviendum ſibi ad altare, et aliis negotiis neceſſariis
" ejus."—His wood to be granted him by the preſident on the progreſs.—He was not to abſent himſelf beyond a certain time; and was to ſuperintend the coppices, wood, and hedges.——
" Dat. 5to. die *Julii*. anº. *Hen.* VIIIvi. 36º." [viz. 1546.]

Here we ſee the Priory in a new light, reduced as it were to the ſtate of a *chantry*, without prior and without canons, and attended only by a prieſt, who was alſo a ſort of bailiff or woodman, his aſſiſtant clerk, and his female cook. *Owen Oglethorpe*, preſident, and *Magd. Coll.* in the fourth year of *Edward* VI. viz. 1551, granted an annuity of ten pounds a year for life to *Nich. Langriſh*, who, from the preamble, appears then to have been fellow of that ſociety: but, being now ſuperannuated for buſineſs, this penſion is granted

granted him for thirty years, if he ſhould live ſo long. It is ſaid of him—" cum jam ſit provectioris etatis quam ut," &c.

Lawrence Stubb, preſident of *Magd. Coll.* leaſed out the Priory lands to *John Sharp*, huſbandman, for the term of twenty years, as early as the ſeventeenth year of *Henry* VIII.—viz. 1526: and it appears that *Henry Newlyn* had been in poſſeſſion of a leaſe before, probably towards the end of the reign of *Henry* VII. *Sharp's* rent was vi^{li}. *per ann.*—Regiſt. B. p. 43.

By an abſtract from a leaſe lying before me, it appears that *Sharp* found a houſe, two barns, a ſtable, and a *duf*-houſe, [*dove*-houſe] built, and ſtanding on the ſouth ſide of the old Priory, and late in the occupation of *Newlyn*. In this abſtract alſo are to be ſeen the names of all the fields, many of which continue the ſame to this day [b]. Of ſome of them I ſhall take notice, where any thing ſingular occurs.

And here firſt we meet with *Paradyſs* [Paradiſe] *mede*. Every convent had it's *Paradiſe*; which probably was an encloſed orchard, pleaſantly laid out, and planted with fruit-trees.—*Tyle-houſe* grove, ſo diſtinguiſhed from having a *tiled houſe* near it[c].

[b] It may not be amiſs to mention here that various names of *tithings*, *farms*, *fields*, *woods*, &c. which appear in the ancient deeds, and evidences of ſeveral centuries ſtanding, are ſtill preſerved in common uſe with little or no variation:—as *Norton*, *Southington*, *Durton*, *Achangre*, *Blackmore*, *Bradſhot*, *Rood*, *Pleſtor*, &c. &c. At the ſame time it ſhould be acknowledged that other places have entirely loſt their original titles, as *le Burſ* and *Trucſtede* in this village; and *la Liega*, or *la Lyge*, which was the name of the original ſite of the Priory, &c.

[c] Men at firſt heaped ſods, or fern, or heath, on their roofs to keep off the inclemencies of weather; and then by degrees laid ſtraw or haum. The firſt refinements on roofing were ſhingles, which are very ancient. Tiles are a very late and imperfect covering, and were not much in uſe till the beginning of the ſixteenth century. The firſt tiled houſe *at Nottingham* was in 1503.

Butt-wood

Butt-wood close; here the ſervants of the Priory and the village-ſwains exerciſed themſelves with their long bows, and ſhot at a mark againſt a butt, or bank [d].—*Cundyth* [conduit] *wood:* the engroſſer of the leaſe not underſtanding this name has made a ſtrange barbarous word of it. *Conduit-wood* was and is a ſteep, rough cow-paſture, lying above the Priory, at about a quarter of a mile to the ſouth-weſt. In the ſide of this field there is a ſpring of water that never fails; at the head of which a ciſtern was built which communicated with leaden pipes that conveyed water to the monaſtery. When this reſervoir was firſt conſtructed does not appear, we only know that it underwent a repair in the epiſcopate of biſhop *Wainfleet*, about the year 1462 [e]. Whether theſe pipes only conveyed the water to the Priory for common and culinary purpoſes, or contributed to any matters of ornament and elegance, we ſhall not pretend to ſay; nor when artiſts and mechanics firſt underſtood any thing of *hydraulics*, and that water confined in tubes would riſe to it's original level. There is a perſon now living who had been employed formerly in digging for theſe pipes, and once diſcovered ſeveral yards, which they ſold for old lead.

There was alſo a plot of ground called *Tan-houſe garden:* and "*Tannaria ſua*," a *tan-yard of their own*, has been mentioned in Letter XVI. This circumſtance I juſt take notice of, as an inſtance that monaſteries had trades and occupations carried on within themſelves [f].

[d] There is alſo a *Butt-cloſe* juſt at the back of the village.

[e] N. 381. "Clauſure terre abbatie eccleſie parochiali de *Seleburne*. ix *s.* iiii *d.* "Reparacionibus domorum predicti prioratus iiii *lib.* xi *s.* *Aque conduct.* ibidem. "xxiii *d.*"

[f] There is ſtill a wood near the Priory called *Tanner's wood.*

Regiſtr.

Regiſtr. B. pag. 112. Here we find a leaſe of the parſonage of *Selborne* to *Thomas Sylveſter* and *Miles Arnold*, huſbandmen—of the tythes of all manner of corne pertaining to the parſonage—with the offerings at the chapel of *Whaddon* belonging to the ſaid parſonage. Dat. *June* 1. 27th. *Hen.* 8th. [viz. 1536.]

As the chapel of *Whaddon* has never been mentioned till now, and as it is not noticed by biſhop *Tanner* in his *Notitia Monaſtica*, ſome more particular account of it will be proper in this place. *Whaddon* was a chapel of eaſe to the mother church of *Selborne*, and was ſituated in the tithing of *Oakhanger*, at about two miles diſtance from the village. The farm and field whereon it ſtood are ſtill called *chapel farm* and *field*[g]: but there are no remains or traces of the building itſelf, the very foundations having been deſtroyed before the memory of man. In a farm yard at *Oakhanger* we remember a large hollow ſtone of a cloſe ſubſtance, which had been uſed as a *hog-trough*, but was then broken. This ſtone, tradition ſaid, had been the baptiſmal font of *Whaddon chapel*. The chapel had been in a very ruinous ſtate in old days; but was new-built at the inſtance of biſhop *Wainfleet*, about the year 1463, during the *firſt* priorſhip of *Berne*, in conſequence of a ſequeſtration iſſued forth by that viſitor againſt the Priory on account of notorious and ſhameful dilapidations[h].

[g] This is a manor-farm, at preſent the property of *Lord Stawell*; and belonged probably in ancient times to *Jo.* de *Venur*, or *Venuz*, one of the firſt benefactors to the Priory.

[h] See Letter XIX. of theſe Antiquities.—"Summa total. ſolut. de novis edificationibus, et reparacionibus per idem tempus, ut patet per comput."

"Videlicet de nova edificat. *Capelle Marie* de *Wadden*. xiiii *lib.* v *s.* viii *d.*---Reparacionibus eccleſie Prioratus, cancellor. et capellar. eccleſiarum et capellarum de *Selborne*, et *Eſtworhlam*"---&c, &c.

The

The *Selborne* rivulet becomes of ſome breadth at *Oakhanger*, and, in very wet ſeaſons, ſwells to a large flood. There is a bridge over the ſtream at this hamlet of conſiderable antiquity and peculiar ſhape, known by the name of *Tunbridge:* it conſiſts of one ſingle blunt *gothic* arch, ſo high and ſharp as to render the paſſage not very convenient or ſafe. Here was alſo, we find, a bridge in very early times; for *Jacobus de Hochangre*, the firſt benefactor to the Priory of *Selborne*, held his eſtate at *Hochangre* by the ſervice of providing the king one foot-ſoldier for forty days, and by building this bridge. "*Jacobus de Hochangre* tenet *Hochangre* in com. "*Southampton, per Serjantiam* [i], inveniendi unum valectum in exer- "citu Domini regis [ſcil. *Henrici* III^tii.] per 40 dies; et ad fa- "ciendum *pontem* de *Hochangre:* et valet per ann. C. s."

Blount's Ancient Tenures, p. 84.

A *dove-houſe* was a conſtant appendant to a manerial dwelling: of this convenience more will be ſaid hereafter.

A *corn-mill* was alſo eſteemed a neceſſary appendage of every manor; and therefore was to be expected of courſe at the Priory of *Selborne*.

The prior had *ſecta molendini*, or *ad molendinum* [k]; a power of compelling his vaſſals to bring their corn to be ground at his mill, according to old cuſtom. He had alſo, according to biſhop *Tanner*, *ſecta molendini de Strete:* but the purport of *Strete*, we muſt confeſs, we do not underſtand. *Strete*, in old Engliſh, ſignifies a road or highway, as *Watling Strete*, &c. therefore the prior might

[i] *Sargentia*, a ſort of tenure of doing ſomething for the king.

[k] "Servitium, quo feudatorii grana ſua ad Domini molendinum, ibi molenda per- "ferre, conſuetudine, aſtringuntur."

have

have ſome mill on a high road. The Priory had only one mill originally at *Selborne*; but, by grants of lands, it came poſſeſſed of one at *Durton*, and one at *Oakhanger*, and probably ſome on it's other ſeveral manors [l]. The mill at the Priory was in uſe within the memory of man, and the ruins of the mill-houſe were ſtanding within theſe thirty years: the pond and dam, and miller's dwelling, ſtill remain. As the ſtream was apt to fail in very dry ſummers, the tenants found their ſituation very diſtreſſing, for want of water, and ſo were forced to abandon the ſpot. This inconvenience was probably never felt in old times, when the whole diſtrict was nothing but woodlands: and yet ſeveral centuries ago there ſeem to have been two or three mills between *Well-head* and the *Priory*. For the reaſon of this aſſertion, ſee Letter XXIX. to Mr. *Barrington*.

Occaſional mention has been made of the many privileges and immunities enjoyed by the convent and it's priors; but a more particular ſtate ſeems to be neceſſary. The author therefore thinks this the proper place, before he concludes theſe antiquities, to introduce all that has been collected by the judicious biſhop *Tanner*, reſpecting the Priory and it's advantages, in his *Notitia Monaſtica*, a book now ſeldom ſeen, on account of the extravagance of it's price; and being but in few hands cannot be eaſily conſulted [m]. He alſo adds a few of it's many privileges from other authorities:—the account is as follows. *Tanner*, page 166.

[l] *Thomas Knowles*, preſident, &c. ann. *Hen.* 8vi. xxiii°. [viz. 1532.] demiſed to *J. Whitelie* their mills, &c. for twenty years. Rent. xxiii *s.* iiii *d.*---*Accepted Frewen*, preſident, &c. ann. *Caroli* xv. [viz. 1640.] demiſed to *Jo. Hook* and *Elizabeth*, his wife, the ſaid mills. Rent as above.

[m] A few days after this was written a new edition of this valuable work was announced, in the month of *April* of the year 1787, as publiſhed by Mr. *Naſmith*.

SELEBURNE.

A priory of *black canons*, founded by the often-mentioned *Peter de Rupibus*, biſhop of *Wincheſter*, A. D. 1233, and dedicated to the bleſſed *Virgin Mary:* but was ſuppreſſed — and granted to *William Wainfleet*, biſhop of *Wincheſter*, who made it part of the endowment of St. *Mary Magdalene College* in *Oxford*. The biſhops of *Wincheſter* were patrons of it. [Pat. 17. *Edw.* II.] Vide in *Mon. Angl.* tom. II. p. 343. " Cartam fundationis ex ipſo autogra-
" pho in archivis *Coll. Magd. Oxōn.* ubi etiam conſervata ſunt re-
" giſtra, cartæ, rentalia et alia munimenta ad hunc prioratum
" ſpectantia.

" Extracta quædam e regiſtro MSS. in bibl. Bodl. *Dodſworth*,
" vol. 89. f. 140.

" Cart. antiq. N. N. n. 33. P. P. n. 48. et 71. Q. Q. n. 40.
" plac. coram juſtit. itin. [Southampton] 20 *Hen.* rot. 25. De
" eccl. de *Baſing*, & *Baſingſtoke*. Plac. de juratis apud *Winton.*
" 40 *Hen.* III. rot.—Profecta molendini de *Strete*. Cart. 54. *Hen.* III
" m. 3. [*De mercatu, & feria apud Seleborne*, a miſtake.] Pat. 9.
" *Edw.* I. m.—Pat. 30. *Edw.* I. m.—Pat. 33. *Edw.* I. p. 1.
" m.—Pat. 35. *Edw.* I. m.—Pat. 1. *Edw.* II. p. 1. m. 9. Pat. 5.
" *Edw.* II. p. 1. m. 21. De terris in *Achanger*. Pat. 6. *Edw.* II.
" p. 1. m. 7. de eiſdem. Brev. in Scacc. 6. *Edw.* II. Paſch.
" rot. 8. Pat. 17. *Edw.* II. p. 1. m.—Cart. 10. *Edw.* III. n. 24.
" Quod terræ ſuæ in *Seleburn*, *Achangre*, *Norton*, *Baſings*, *Baſing-*
" *ſtoke*, and *Nately*, ſint de afforeſtatæ, and pro aliis libertatibus.
" Pat. 12. *Edw.* III. p. 3. m. 3.—Pat. 13. *Edw.* III. p. 1. m.—
" Cart. 18. *Edw.* III. n. 24."

" N. N. 33.

" N. N. 33. Rex conceſſit quod prior, et canonici de *Seleburn* " habeant per terras ſuas de *Seleburne*, *Achangre*, *Norton*, *Brompdon*, " *Baſinges*, *Baſingſtoke*, & *Nately*, diverſas libertates.

" P. P. 48. Quod prior de *Seleburne*, habeat terras ſuas quietas " de vaſto, et regardo."—*Extracts from Ayloffe's Calendars of Ancient Charters.*

" Placita de juratis & aſſis coram *Salōm* de *Roff*, & ſociis " ſuis juſtic. itiner. apud *Wynton* in comitatu *Sutht.*—anno regni " R. *Edvardi* filii reg. *Henr.* octavo.—Et *Por de Seleborn* ht " in *Selebr. fure. thurſet. pillory, emendasse panis, & ſuis.*" [cereviſiæ.]—*Chapter-houſe Weſtminſter.*

" Placita Foreſte apud *Wyntōn* in com. *Sutham.*—Anno reg. " *Edwardi* octavo coram Rog. de *Clifford.*—&c. Juſtic. ad eadem " placita audienda et tminand. affigtis.

" Carta Prōr de *Seleburn*, H. Dei gra. rex. āngl. &c. Con- " ceſſim. prior. ſce. *Marie* de *Seleburn.* et canonicis ibidem Deo " ſervient. — — — q ipi et oēs hoies ſui in pdcis terris ſuis et " tenementis manentes ſint in ppetum quieti de ſectis Swanemotor. " et omnium alior. placitor. for. et de *eſpeltamentis* canum. et de " omnibus ſubmonitoibz. placitis querelis et exaccoībus et oc- " coibz. ad for. et for. et viridar. et eōr. miniſtros ptinentibz."— *Chapter-houſe, Weſtminſter.*

" Plita Foreſtarum in com. *Sutht.* apud *Suthamton* — — anno " regni regis *Edwardi tcii* poſt conqueſtum quarto coram *Johe Mantvers.* &c. juſtic. itinand. &c.

De hiis qui clamant libtates infra Foreſtas in com. *Sutht.*

" Prior de *Selebourne* clamat eſſe quietus erga dnm regem de " omnibus finibus et amerciamentis p tnſgr. et omnibus exaccoibz " ad Dom. regem vel hered. ſuos ptinent. pret. plita corone reg.

" Item clamat q^{d} ſi aliquis hominum ſuorum de terris et " ten. p. delicto ſuo vitam aut membrum debeat amittere vel " fugiat, & judico ſtare noluerit vel aliud delictum fecit pro " quo debeat catella ſua amittere, ubicunq; juſtitia fieri debeat " omnia catella illa ſint ptci Prioris et ſucceſſor. ſuor. Et liceat " eidem priori et ballis ſuis ponere ſe in ſeiſinam in hujuſmodi " catall. in caſibus pdcis ſine diſturbacone ballivor. dni reg. " quorumcunque.

" Item clam. quod licet aliqua libtatum p dnm regem con- " ceſſar. pceſſu temporis quocunq; caſu contingente uſi non " fuerint, nlominus poſtea eadm libtate uti poſſit. Et pdcus prior " queſitus p juſtic. quo waranto clamat omn. terr. et ten. ſua in " *Seleburne*, *Norton*, *Baſynges*, *Baſyngeſtoke*, & *Nattele*, que prior " domus pdte huit & tenuit X^{mo}. die *April* anno regni dni *Hen.* " reg. pavi dni reg. nue XVIII. imppm eſſe quieta de vaſto et " regardo, et viſu foreſtarior. et viridarior. regardator. et omnium " miniſtrorum foreſte." &c. &c.—*Chapter-houſe*, *Weſtminſter*.

LETTER.

LETTER XXVI.

THOUGH the evidences and documents of the Priory and parish of *Selborne* are now at an end, yet, as the author has ſtill ſeveral things to ſay reſpecting the preſent ſtate of that convent and it's *Grange*, and other matters, he does not ſee how he can acquit himſelf of the ſubject without treſpaſſing again on the patience of the reader by adding one ſupplementary letter.

No ſooner did the Priory (perhaps much out of repair at the time) become an appendage to the college, but it muſt at once have tended to ſwift decay. *Magdalen College* wanted now only two chambers for the chantry prieſt and his aſſiſtant; and therefore had no occaſion for the hall, dormitory, and other ſpacious apartments belonging to ſo large a foundation. The roofs neglected, would ſoon become the poſſeſſion of daws and owls; and, being rotted and decayed by the weather, would fall in upon the floors; ſo that all parts muſt have haſtened to ſpeedy dilapidation and a ſcene of broken ruins. Three full centuries have now paſſed ſince the diſſolution; a ſeries of years that would craze the ſtouteſt edifices. But, beſides the ſlow hand of time, many circumſtances have contributed to level this venerable ſtructure with the ground; of which nothing now remains but one piece of a wall of about ten feet long, and as many feet high, which probably was part of an out-houſe. As early as the latter end of the reign of *Hen.* VII.

we

we find that a farm-houſe and two barns were built to the ſouth of the Priory, and undoubtedly out of it's materials. Avarice again has much contributed to the overthrow of this ſtately pile, as long as the tenants could make money of it's ſtones or timbers. Wantonneſs, no doubt, has had a ſhare in the demolition; for boys love to deſtroy what men venerate and admire. A remarkable inſtance of this propenſity the writer can give from his own knowledge. When a ſchoolboy, more than fifty years ago, he was eye-witneſs, perhaps a party concerned, in the undermining a portion of that fine old ruin at the north end of *Baſingſtoke* town, well known by the name of *Holy Ghoſt Chapel*. Very providentially the vaſt fragment, which theſe thoughtleſs little engineers endeavoured to ſap, did not give way ſo ſoon as might have been expected; but it fell the night following, and with ſuch violence that it ſhook the very ground, and, awakening the inhabitants of the neighbouring cottages, made them ſtart up in their beds as if they had felt an earthquake. The motive for this dangerous attempt does not ſo readily appear: perhaps the more danger the more honour, thought the boys; and the notion of doing ſome miſchief gave a zeſt to the enterprize. As *Dryden* ſays upon an other occaſion,

"It look'd ſo like a ſin it pleas'd the more."

Had the Priory been only levelled to the ſurface of the ground, the diſcerning eye of an antiquary might have aſcertained it's *ichnography*, and ſome judicious hand might have developed it's dimenſions. But, beſides other ravages, the very foundations have been torn up for the repair of the highways: ſo that the ſite of this convent is now become a rough, rugged paſture-field, full of hillocks

hillocks and pits, choaked with nettles, and dwarf-elder, and trampled by the feet of the ox and the heifer.

As the tenant at the Priory was lately digging among the foundations, for materials to mend the highways, his labourers diſcovered two large ſtones, with which the farmer was ſo pleaſed that he ordered them to be taken out whole. One of theſe proved to be a large *Doric* capital, worked in good taſte; and the other a baſe of a pillar; both formed out of the ſoft freeſtone of this diſtrict. Theſe ornaments, from their dimenſions, ſeem to have belonged to maſſive columns; and ſhew that the church of this *convent* was a large and coſtly edifice. They were found in the ſpace which has always been ſuppoſed to have contained the ſouth tranſept of the Priory church. Some fragments of large pilaſters were alſo found at the ſame time. The diameter of the capital was two feet three inches and an half; and of the column, where it had ſtood on the baſe, eighteen inches and three quarters.

Two years ago ſome labourers digging again among the ruins founded a ſort of rude thick vaſe or urn of ſoft ſtone, containing about two gallons in meaſure, on the verge of the brook, in the very ſpot which tradition has always pointed out as having been the ſite of the convent kitchen. This clumſy utenſil [n], whether intended for holy water, or whatever purpoſe, we were going to procure, but found that the labourers had juſt broken it in pieces, and carried it out on the highways.

[n] A judicious antiquary, who ſaw this vaſe, obſerved, that it poſſibly might have been a ſtandard *meaſure* between the monaſtery and it's tenants. The priory we have mentioned claimed the aſſize of bread and beer in *Selborne* manor; and probably the adjuſtment of dry meaſures for grain, &c.

The

The Priory of *Selborne* had poſſeſſed in this village a *Grange*, an uſual appendage to manerial eſtates, where the fruits of their lands were ſtowed and laid up for uſe, at a time when men took the natural produce of their eſtates in kind. The manſion of this ſpot is ſtill called the *Grange*, and is the manor-houſe of the convent poſſeſſions in this place. The author has converſed with very ancient people who remembered the old original *Grange*; but it has long given place to a modern farm-houſe. *Magdalen College* holds a court-leet and court-baron[o] in the great wheat-barn of the ſaid *Grange*, annually, where the *Preſident* uſually ſuperintends, attended by the *burſar* and *ſteward* of the college. [p]

The following uncommon preſentment at the court is not unworthy of notice. There is on the ſouth ſide of the king's field, (a large common-field ſo called) a conſiderable tumulus, or hillock, now covered with thorns and buſhes, and known by the name of *Kite's Hill*, which is preſented, year by year, in court as not ploughed. Why this injunction is ſtill kept up reſpecting this ſpot, which is ſurrounded on all ſides by arable land, may be a queſtion not eaſily ſolved, ſince the uſage has long ſurvived the knowledge of the intention thereof. We can only ſuppoſe that as the prior, beſides *thurſet* and *pillory*, had alſo *furcas*, a power of life and death, that he might have reſerved this little eminence as the place of execution for delinquents. And there is the more reaſon to ſuppoſe ſo, ſince a ſpot juſt by is called *Gally* [Gallows] hill.

[o] The time when this court is held is the mid-week between *Eaſter* and *Whitſuntide*.

[p] *Owen Oglethorpe*, preſident, &c. an. *Edw. Sexti*, primo [viz. 1547.] demiſed to *Robert Arden Selborne Grange* for twenty years. Rent viii[li]. -*Index of Leaſes*.

The

The lower part of the village next the *Grange*, in which is a pond and a ſtream, is well known by the name of *Gracious-ſtreet*, an appellation not at all underſtood. There is a lake in *Surrey*, near *Chobham*, called alſo *Gracious-pond:* and another, if we miſtake not, near *Hedleigh*, in the county of *Hants*. This ſtrange denomination we do not at all comprehend, and conclude that it may be a corruption from ſome *Saxon* word, itſelf perhaps forgotten.

It has been obſerved already, that Biſhop *Tanner* was miſtaken when he refers to an evidence of *Dodſworth* "*De mercatu et* FERIA *de Seleburne.*" *Selborne* never had a chartered fair; the preſent fair was ſet up ſince the year 1681, by a ſet of jovial fellows, who had found in an old almanack that there had been a fair here in former days on the firſt of *Auguſt*; and were deſirous to revive ſo joyous a feſtival. Againſt this innovation the vicar ſet his face, and perſiſted in crying it down, as the probable occaſion of much intemperance. However the fair prevailed; but was altered to the twenty-ninth of *May*, becauſe the former day often interfered with wheat-harveſt. On that day it ſtill continues to be held, and is become an uſeful mart for cows and calves. Moſt of the lower houſe-keepers brew beer againſt this holiday, which is dutied by the exciſeman; and their becoming victuallers for the day without a licenſe is overlooked.

Monaſteries enjoyed all ſorts of conveniencies within themſelves. Thus at the Priory, a low and moiſt ſituation, there were ponds and ſtews for their fiſh: at the ſame place alſo, and at the *Grange* in *Culver-croft*[c], there were dove-houſes; and on the hill oppoſite to the *Grange* the prior had a warren, as the names of *The Coney-crofts* and *Coney-croft Hanger* plainly teſtify[d].

[c] *Culver*, as has been obſerved before, is *Saxon* for a pigeon.

[d] A warren was an uſual appendage to a manor.

Nothing has been ſaid as yet reſpecting the tenure or holding of the *Selborne* eſtates. *Temple* and *Norton* are manor farms and freehold; as is the manor of *Chapel* near *Oakhanger*, and alſo the eſtate at *Oakhanger-houſe* and *Black-moor*. The *Priory* and *Grange* are leaſehold under *Magdalen college*, for twenty-one years, renewable every ſeven: all the ſmaller eſtates in and round the village are copyhold of inheritance under the college, except the little remains of the *Gurdon-manor*, which had been of old leaſed out upon lives, but have been freed of late by their preſent lord, as faſt as thoſe lives have dropped.

Selborne ſeems to have derived much of it's proſperity from the near neighbourhood of the Priory. For monaſteries were of conſiderable advantage to places where they had their ſites and eſtates, by cauſing great reſort, by procuring markets and fairs, by freeing them from the cruel oppreſſion of foreſt-laws, and by letting their lands at eaſy rates. But, as ſoon as the convent was ſuppreſſed, the town which it had occaſioned began to decline, and the market was leſs frequented; the rough and ſequeſtered ſituation gave a check to reſort, and the neglected roads rendered it leſs and leſs acceſſible.

That it had been a conſiderable place for ſize formerly appears from the largeneſs of the church, which much exceeds thoſe of the neighbouring villages; by the ancient extent of the burying ground, which, from human bones occaſionally dug up, is found to have been much encroached upon; by giving a name to the hundred; by the old foundations and ornamented ſtones, and tracery of windows that have been diſcovered on the north-eaſt ſide of the village; and by the many veſtiges of diſuſed fiſh-ponds ſtill to be ſeen around it. For ponds and ſtews were multiplied in the times of popery, that the affluent might enjoy ſome variety

variety at their tables on faſt days; therefore the more they abounded the better probably was the condition of the inhabitants.

More PARTICULARS *reſpecting the* OLD FAMILY TORTOISE, *omitted in the* Natural Hiſtory.

BECAUSE we call this creature an abject reptile, we are too apt to undervalue his abilities, and depreciate his powers of inſtinct. Yet he is, as Mr. *Pope* ſays of his lord,

— — — "Much too wiſe to walk into a well:"

and has ſo much diſcernment as not to fall down an haha; but to ſtop and withdraw from the brink with the readieſt precaution.

Though he loves warm weather he avoids the hot ſun; becauſe his thick ſhell, when once heated, would, as the poet ſays of ſolid armour—"ſcald with ſafety." He therefore ſpends the more ſultry hours under the umbrella of a large cabbage-leaf, or amidſt the waving foreſts of an aſparagus-bed.

But as he avoids heat in the ſummer, ſo, in the decline of the year, he improves the faint autumnal beams, by getting within the reflection of a fruit-wall: and, though he never has read that planes inclining to the horizon receive a greater ſhare of

warmth *, he inclines his ſhell, by tilting it againſt the wall, to collect and admit every feeble ray.

Pitiable ſeems the condition of this poor embarraſſed reptile: to be caſed in a ſuit of ponderous armour, which he cannot lay aſide; to be impriſoned, as it were, within his own ſhell, muſt preclude, we ſhould ſuppoſe, all activity and diſpoſition for enterprize. Yet there is a ſeaſon of the year (uſually the beginning of June) when his exertions are remarkable. He then walks on tiptoe, and is ſtirring by five in the morning; and, traverſing the garden, examines every wicket and interſtice in the fences, through which he will eſcape if poſſible: and often has eluded the care of the gardener, and wandered to ſome diſtant field. The motives that impel him to undertake theſe rambles ſeem to be of the amorous kind: his fancy then becomes intent on ſexual attachments, which tranſport him beyond his uſual gravity, and induce him to forget for a time his ordinary ſolemn deportment.

* Several years ago a book was written entitled "Fruit-walls improved by inclining "them to the horizon;" in which the author has ſhewn, by calculation, that a much greater number of the rays of the ſun will fall on ſuch walls than on thoſe which are perpendicular.

ADDITIONS

ADDITIONS to LETTER XLI, page 236.

Of all the propenſities of plants none ſeem more ſtrange than their different periods of bloſſoming. Some produce their flowers in the winter, or very firſt dawnings of ſpring; many when the ſpring is eſtabliſhed; ſome at midſummer, and ſome not till autumn. When we ſee the *helleborus fœtidus* and *helleborus niger* blowing at Chriſtmas, the *helleborus hyemalis* in January, and the *helleborus viridis* as ſoon as ever it emerges out of the ground, we do not wonder, becauſe they are kindred plants that we expect ſhould keep pace the one with the other. But other congenerous vegetables differ ſo widely in their time of flowering, that we cannot but admire. I ſhall only inſtance at preſent in the *crocus ſativus*, the vernal, and the autumnal crocus, which have ſuch an affinity, that the beſt botaniſts only make them varieties of the ſame *genus*, of which there is only one *ſpecies*; not being able to diſcern any difference in the *corolla*, or in the internal ſtructure. Yet the *vernal crocus* expands it's flowers by the beginning of March at fartheſt, and often in very rigorous weather; and cannot be retarded but by ſome violence offered:—while the *autumnal* (the *Saffron*) defies the influence of the ſpring and ſummer, and will not blow till moſt plants begin to fade and run to ſeed. This circumſtance is one of the wonders of the creation, little noticed, becauſe a common occurrence; yet ought not to be overlooked on account of

of it's being familiar, ſince it would be as difficult to be explained as the moſt ſtupendous phænomenon in nature.

> Say, what impels, amidſt ſurrounding ſnow
> Congeal'd, the *crocus'* flamy bud to glow?
> Say, what retards, amidſt the ſummer's blaze,
> Th' *autumnal bulb*, till pale, declining days?
> The GOD of SEASONS; whoſe pervading power
> Controls the ſun, or ſheds the fleecy ſhower:
> He bids each flower his quick'ning word obey;
> Or to each lingering bloom enjoins delay.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX,

No. I.

No. 6. (II.)

Carta Petri et conventus eccleſie Winton. pro fundatione prioratus de Seleburne, &c. dat. 1233.

OMNIBUS Chriſti fidelibus ad quos preſens ſcriptum pervenerit. P. divina miſeracione *Wintōn* eccleſie miniſter humilis ſalutem in Domino : Ex officio paſtorali tenemur viros religioſos, qui pauperes ſpiritu eſſe pro Chriſto neglectis lucris temporalibus elegerunt; ſpirituali affectu diligere, fovere pariter et creare, eorumq; quieti ſollicite providere; ut tanto uberiores fructus de continua in lege Dei meditatione percipiant, quanto a conturbationibus malignorum amplius fuerint ex patroni proviſione et eccleſiaſtica defenſione ſecuri. Hinc eſt quod univerſitati veſtre notificamus, nos divine caritatis inſtinctu, de aſſenſu conventus eccleſie noſtre *Wintōn*, fundaſſe domum religioſam, ordinis magni patris *Auguſtini*, in honore Dei et glorioſe ſemper virginis ejuſdem Dei genetricis Marie,

Marie, apud *Seleburne*; ibidemque canonicos regulares inſtituiſſe: ad quorum ſuſtentationem et hoſpitum et pauperum ſuſceptionem, dedimus, conceſſimus, et preſenti carta noſtra confirmavimus eiſdem canonicis, totam terram quam habuimus de dono *Jacobi* de *Acangre*: et totam terram, curſum aque, boſcum et pratum que habuimus de dono *Jacobi* de *Nortone*; et totam terram boſcum et redditum que habuimus de dono domini *Henrici* regis *Anglie*; cum omnibus predictarum poſſeſſionum pertinentiis. Dedimus etiam et conceſſimus in proprios uſus eiſdem canonicis eccleſiam predicte ville de *Seleburne*, et eccleſias de *Baſing*, et de *Baſinge-ſtok*, cum omnibus earundem eccleſiarum capellis, libertatibus, et aliis pertinenciis; ſalva honeſta et ſufficienti ſuſtentatione vicariorum in predictis eccleſiis miniſtrantium; quorum preſentatio ad priorem predicte domus religioſe de *Seleburne* et canonicos ejuſdem loci in perpetuum pertinebit. Preterea poſſeſſiones et redditus, eccleſias ſive decimas, quas in epiſcopatu noſtro adempti ſunt, vel in poſterum, Deo dante, juſtis modis poterunt adipiſci, ſub noſtra et *Wintōn* eccleſie protectione ſuſcepimus, et epiſcopalis auctoritate officii confirmavimus; eadem auctoritate firmiter inhibentes, ne quis locum, in quo divino ſunt officio mancipati, ſeu alias eorum poſſeſſiones, invadere vi vel fraude vel ingenio malo occupare audeat, vel etiam retinere, aut fratres converſos, ſervientes, vel homines eorum aliqua violentia perturbare, ſive fugientes ad eos cauſa ſalutis ſue conſervande a ſeptis domus ſue violenter preſumat extraere. Precipimus autem ut in eadem domo religioſa de *Seleburne* ordo canonicus, et regularis converſatio, ſecundum regulam magni patris *Auguſtini*, quam primi inhabitatores profeſſi ſunt, in perpetuum obſervetur; et ipſa domus religioſa a cujuſlibet alterius domus religioſe ſubjectione libera permaneat, et in omnibus abſoluta; ſalva in omnibus

omnibus epiſcopali auctoritate, et *Winton̄* eccleſie dignitate. Quod ut in noſterum ratum permaneat et inconcuſſum, preſenti ſcripto et ſigilli noſtri patrocinis duximus confirmandum. His teſtibus domino *Waltero* abbate de *Hyda*. Domino *Walters* Priore de ſancto *Swithuno*, domino Stephano priore de Motesfonte, magiſtro *Alano* de *Stoke*; magiſtro Willō de ſancte *Marie* eccleſia, tunc officiali noſtro; *Luca* archidiacon' de ſurr'. magiſtro *Humfrido* de *Millers*, *Henrico* & *Hugone* capellanis, *Roberto* de *Clinchamp*, et *Petro Roſſinol* clericis, et multis aliis. Datum apud *Wlues*[a] per manum P. de cancellis. In die ſanctorum martirum *Fabiani* et *Sebaſtiani*. Anno Domi milleſimo ducenteſimo triceſimo tercio.

Seal, two ſaints and a biſhop praying:
Legend: S̄VI. M. SITЄ. BONI. PЄTR' PAVL' Є PATRONI.

[a] Probably *Wolveſey-houſe* near *Wincheſter*.

NUMBER II.

(III.)

(Ni 108.)

Carta petens licentiam eligendi prelatum a Domino Epiſcopo Wintonienſi.

Defuncto prelato forma petendi licentiam eligendi.

DOMINO et patri in Chriſto reverendo domino & P. Dei gratia Wintonienſi epiſcopo, devoti ſui filii ſupprior monaſterii de S. Wintonienſis dioceſeos ſalutem cum ſubjectione humili, reverentiam, et honorem. Monaſterio noſtro de S. in quo ſub protectione veſtra vivimus, ſub habitu regulari, Prioris ſolacio deſtituto per mortem bone memorie, &c. quondam Prioris noſtri, qui tali hora in aurora diem clauſit extremum, veſtre paternitati reverende et dominationi precipue iſtum noſtrum et noſtri monaſterii caſum flebilem cum merore nunciamus; ad veſtre paternitatis refugium fratres noſtres A. et C. canonicos deſtinantes, rogando et petendo devote quatenus nobis dignemini licenciam tribuere, ut monaſterio predicto, Prioris regimine deſtituto, providere poſſimus, invocata Spiritus ſancti gratia, per electionem canonicam de Priore. Actum in monaſterio predicto 5 kalend. &c. anno Domini, &c. Valeat reverenda paternitas veſtra ſemper in Domino.

Forma

Forma licencie concesse.

P. Dei gratia Wintonienſis epiſcopus dilectis in Chriſto filiis ſuppriori et conventui talis loci ſalutem, gratiam, et benedictionem. Viduitatem monaſterii veſtri vacantis per mortem quondam R. Prioris veſtri, cujus anime propicietur altiſſimus, paterno compacientes affectu, petitam a nobis eligendi licenciam vobis concedimus, ut patronus. Datum apud, &c. 3 kalend. Jul. anno conſecrationis noſtre tertio.

Forma decreti poſt electionem conficiendi.

In nomine Domini noſtri Jheſu Chriſti, Amen. Monaſterio beate Marie talis loci Winton. dioc. ſolacio deſtituto per mortem R. quondam Prioris ipſius; ac corpore ejus, prout moris eſt, eccleſiaſtice ſepulture commendato; petita cum devocione licentia per fratres K. et . canonicos a ven: in Chriſto patre et domino domino P. Dei gratia Wintonienſi epiſcopo ejuſdem monaſterii patrono, eligendi priorem, et optenta; die dato, a toto capitulo ad eligendum vocati fuere evocandi, qui debuerunt, voluerunt, et potuerunt comode electioni prioris in monaſterio predicto intereſſe: omnes canonici in capitulo ejuſdem eccleſie convenerunt tali die, anno Dom. &c. ad tractandum de electione ſui prioris facienda; qui, invocata Spiritus Sancti gratia, ad procedendum per formam ſcrutinii concencientes.

(N. 108.)

Modus procedendi ad electionem per formam ſcrutinii.

OMNIBUS in capitulo congregatis qui debent volunt et poſſunt comode intereſſe electioni eligendi ſunt tres de capitulo [a] *non noſtro obedientias ores* [b], qui erunt ſcrutatores, et ſedebunt in angulo capituli; et primo requirent vota ſua propria, videlicet, duo requirent *tertium* et duo *alterum*, &c. dicendo ſic, "Frater P. in-"quem concentis ad eligendum in prelatum noſtrum?" quibus examinatis, et dictis eorum per vicem ex ipſis in ſcriptura redactis, vocabunt ad ſe omnes fratres ſingillatim, primo ſuppriorem, &c. Et unus de tribus examinatoribus ſcribet dictum cujuſlibet. Celebrato ſcrutinio, *publicare db coram omnibus. Facta ptmodū concenſum* collectione apparebit in quem pars major capituli et ſanior concentit; quo viſo, major pars dicet minori, "Cum "major pars et ſanior capituli noſtri concenciat in fratrem R. "ipſe eſt eligendus, unde, ſi placet, ipſum communiter eliga-"mus;" ſi vero omnes acquieverint, tunc ille qui majorem vocem habet in capitulo ſurgens dicet, "Ego frater R. pro toto "capitulo eligo fratrem R. nobis in paſtorem;" et omnes dicent; "Placet nobis." Et incipient, "TE DEUM LAUDAMUS." Si vero in unum concordare nequiverint, tunc hiis, qui majorem vocem habet inter illos qui majorem et ſaniorem partem capituli conſtituerint, dicet, "Ego pro me et illis qui mecum concenciunt "in fratrem R. eligo ipſum in," &c. Et illi dicent, "Placet "nobis," &c.

[a] Fratres canonicos. See *Forma decreti, &c.*

[b] Obedientiores ſc. more regular. In virtute obedientiæ occurs in *Not. Viſit.*

Forma

Forma ricte preſentandi electum.

Reverendo in Chriſto patri et domino dómino P. Dei gratia Winton. epiſcopo devoti ſui filii frater R. Supprior conventualis beate Marie de tali loco, et ejuſdem loci Conventus, cum ſubjectione humili, omnem obedienciam, reverenciam, et honorem. Cum conventualis eccleſia beate Marie talis loci, in qua ſub protectione veſtra vivimus ſub habitu regulari, per mortem felicis recordationis R. quondam prioris noſtri deſtituta eccleſia priore, qui 6^to^ kalend. Jul. in aurora anno Dom. &c. diem clauſit extremum; de corpore ejus, prout moris eſt, eccleſiaſtice tradito ſepulture; petita a vobis, tanquam a Domino, et vero ejuſdem eccleſie patrono et paſtore, licencia eligendi priorem et optenta; convenientibus omnibus canonicis predicte eccleſie in capitulo noſtro, qui voluerunt debuerunt et potuerunt comode electioni noſtre intereſſe, tali die anno Dom. ſupradicto, invocata Spiritus Sancti gratia, fratrem R. de C. ejuſdem eccleſie canonicum unanimi aſſenſu et voluntate in priorem noſtrum, ex puris votis ſingulorum, unanimiter eligimus. Quem reverende paternitati veſtre et dominacioni precipue Priorem vero patrono noſtro et paſtore confirmandum, ſi placet, tenore preſentium preſentamus; *dignitatem* veſtram humiliter et devote rogantes, quatenus, dicte electioni felicem prebere volentes aſſenſum, eidem R. electo noſtro *nunc* confirmabitis, et quod veſtrum eſt paſtorali *ſolicitudine* impendere dignemini. In cujus rei teſtimonium preſentes litteras ſigillo capituli noſtri ſignatas paternitati veſtre *tranſmittimus*. Valeat reverenda paternitas veſtra ſemper in Domino. Datum tali loco die et anno ſupradictis. Omnes et ſinguli, per fratres.

A. B.

A. B. et C. ejuſdem eccleſie canonicos de voluntate tocius conventus ad inquirenda vota ſingulorum conſtitutos, ſecreto et ſingillatim requiſiti; tandem publicato ſcrutinio et facta votorum colectione inventum eſt, majorem et ſeniorem partem tocius capituli dicte eccleſie in fratrem S. de B. dicte eccleſie canonicum unanimiter et concorditer concenciſſe; vel ſic, quando inventum omnes canonicos dicte eccleſie preter duos in fratrem, A. D. quibus ſtatim majori parti eligendum adquieſcenter: frater k. ſupprior eccleſie memorate, juxta poteſtatem ſibi a toto conventu traditam, vice conſociorum ſuorum et ſua ac tocius conventus, dictum fratrem S. de B. in priorem ejuſdem eccleſie elegit, ſub hac forma; "Ego frater ſupprior conventualis eccleſie beate "Marie talis loci, poteſtate et auctoritate mihi a toto conventu "dicte eccleſie tradita et commiſſa, quando, puplicato ſcrutinio "et omnibus circa hoc rite peractis, inveni majorem et partem "ſeniorem tocius capituli noſtri in fratrem S. de B. virum "providum unanimiter concenſiſſe, ipſum nobis et eccleſie noſtre, "vice tocius conventus, in priorem eligendum; et eidem elec-"tioni ſubſcribo; cui electioni omnes canonici noſtri concence-"runt, et ſubſcripſerunt."—"Ego frater de C. preſenti elec-"tioni concencio, et ſubſcribo." Et ſic de ſingulis electoribus; in *cujus rei* teſtimonium ſigillum capituli noſtri apponi fecimus ad preſentes.

WILLMUS

NUMBER III.

Viſitatio Notabilis de Seleburne.

1387.

WILLMUS permiſſione divina Winton Epiſcopus dilectis filiis Priori et Conventui Prioratus de Selborne Ordinis S^ti. Auguſtini, noſtræ dioceſeos, Salutem, gratiam, et ben. Suſcepti regiminis cura paſtoralis officii nos inducit invigilare ſolicite noſtrorum remediis ſubjectorum, et eorum obviare periculis ac ſcandala removere; ut ſic de vinea domini per cultoris providi ſarculum vicia extirpentur inſerantur virtutes, exceſſus debite corrigantur, et ſubditorum mores in nimium prolapſorum per appoſicionem moderaminis congrui reformentur: Hanc nempe ſolicitudinem noſtris humeris incumbentem aſſidua meditacione penſantes, ne ſanguis veſter de manibus noſtris requiratur, ad vos et veſtrum Prioratum ſupradictum, prout noſtro incumbebat officio paſtorali, nuper ex cauſa deſcendimus viſitandi; et dum inter vos noſtre viſitacionis officium iteratis vicibus actualiter exercuimus, nonnulla reperimus que non ſolum obviant regularibus inſtitutis, verum eciam que religioni veſtre non congruunt, nec conveniunt honeſtati;

tati; ad que per noſtrum antidotum debite reformanda opem et operam prout expedit et oportet apponimus, quas credimus efficaces, infra ſcripta ſiquidem precepta noſtra pariter et decreta, ſanctorum patrum conſtitucionibus editis et debite promulgatis canonicisque ac regularibus inſtitutis fulcita, vobis noſtri ſigilli roborata munimine tranſmittimus, inter vos futuris temporibus efficaciter obſervanda, quatinus ad Dei laudem, divini cultus ac veſtræ religionis augmentum, ipſis mediantibus, per viam ſalutis feliciter incedatis; mores et actus veſtri abſtrabantur a noxiis, et ad ſalutaria dirigantur.

No. I. In primis ut Domino Deo noſtro, a quo cuncta bona procedunt, et omnis religio immaculata ſumpſit exordium, in Prioratu veſtro predicto ſerviatur laudabiliter in divinis; Vobis, in virtute ſancte obediencie ac ſub majoris excommunicationis ſententie pena, firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus hore canonice, tam de nocte quam de die, in choro a conventu cantentur; miſſe quoque de beata Maria et de die, necnon miſſe alie conſuete horis et devocione debitis et cum moderatis pauſacionibus celebrentur: nec liceat alicui de conventu ab horis et miſſis hujuſmodi ſe abſentare, aut, poſtquam incepte fuerint, ante complecionem earum ab ipſis recedere quoviſmodo; niſi ex cauſa neceſſaria vel legitima per priorem vel ſuppriorem aut alium preſidentem loci, ut convenit, approbanda; in quo caſu ipſorum omnium conſciencias apud altiſſimum arctius oneramus; contrarium vero facientes in proximo tunc capitulo celebrando abſq accepcione qualibet perſonarum regularem ſubeant diſciplinam; acrius inſuper puniendi ſi contumacia vel pertinacia delinquencium hoc expoſcat; ſi quis vero poſt trinam correpcionem debite ſe non correxerit in premiſſis, pro ſingulis vicibus quibus contrarium fecerit ipſum ſingulis ſextis feriis in pane et aqua dumtaxat precipimus jejunare.

No. II. Item

No. II. Item quia in viſitacione noſtra predicta comperimus evidenter quod ſilencium, quaſi in exilio poſitum, ad quod juxta regulam S^ti. Auguſtini efficaciter eſtis aſtricti, locis et temporibus debitis inter vos minime obſervatur contra obſervancias regulares; Vobis omnibus et ſingulis firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus ſilencium, prout vos decet, regula ſupradicta, de cetero locis et temporibus *hujuſmodi* obſervetis; a vanis et frivolis colloquiis, ſicut decet, vos penitus abſtinendo: illos vero, qui ſilencium *hujuſmodi* in locis predictis non obſervaverint, animadverſione condigna precipimus caſtigari; et, ſi quis tercio ſuper hoc legitime convictus fuerit, preter regularem diſciplinam, die, quo debite ſilencium non tenuerit, pane et ſervicia dumtaxat et legumine ſit contentus.

No. III. Item quia nonnulli concanonici et confratres prioratus veſtri predicti validi atq; ſani et in ſacerdocio conſtituti celebracionem miſſarum abſq; cauſa legitima indebite ac minus voluntarie multociens, ut dicitur, negligunt et omittunt; fundatorum aliorumq; benefactorum ſuorum animas, pro quibus ſacrificia offerre tenentur, ſuffragiis nequiter defraudando; Vobis, ut ſupra, firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus vos omnes et ſinguli Prioratus predicti concanonici et confratres in ſacerdocio conſtituti frequenter confiteamini confeſſoribus per Priorem deputandis; quos quidem confeſſores diſcretos et idoneos, prout numerus perſonarum dicti conventus exigit, per vos dominum Priorem predictum precipimus deputari; miſſaſque, impedimento ceſſante legitimo, tam pro vivis quam pro defunctis, pro quibus orare tenemini, de cetero, quanto frequencius poteritis, celebretis devocius, ſicut decet; impedimentum vero predictum cum contigerit Priori vel Suppriori Prioratus predicti per illud pacientes infra triduum declarari volumus et exponi, ac per eorum alterum

prout juſtum fuerit approbari, vel eciam reprobari; in quo caſu ipſorum omnium tam exponencium quam approbancium apud altiſſimum conſciencias diſtrictius oneramus; contrarium vero facientes, primo ſuper hoc convicti, proxima quarta feria ſequenti in pane, ſervifia, et legumine; ſecundo vero convicti feria quarta et ſexta ſequentibus modo conſimili; tercio vero convicti dictis feriis extunc ſequentibus in pane et aqua jejunent, quouſque judicio prioris ſe correxerint in premiſſis; ſtatuentes preterea quod Prior et Supprior Prioratus predicti contra *hujuſmodi* delinquentes ſemel ſingulis menſibus diligenter inquirant, et quos culpabiles invenerint in premiſſis modo predicto ſtudeant caſtigare.

No. IV. Item quia tranſitus communis ſecularium perſonarum utriuſque ſexus per clauſtrum Prioratus veſtri in congruis temporibus minime exercetur, et potiſſime horis illis quibus fratres de conventu in contemplacione ſancta ſtudiis quoque ac lectionibus variis inibi occupantur; unde diſſoluciones plurime provenerunt, et poterunt in futuro veriſimiliter provenire, ac ipſorum fratrem quieti et religionis honeſtati plurimum derogatur: Vobis ut ſupra arcius injungendo mandamus, quatinus, cum ſecundum regulam ſancti Auguſtini converçacio veſtra debeat eſſe a ſecularibus *hujuſmodi* ſeparata, ad animarum ac' eciam rerum pericula, que poſſent et ſolent ex concurſu *hujuſmodi* provenire, caucius evitanda; tranſitum communem predictum per prefatum clauſtrum de cetero fieri nullatenus permittatis, per quem veſtra devocio et religionis honeſtas vulneram vel eciam impediri valeant quoviſmodo, ſub pena excommunicacionis majoris quam in contravenientes intendimus canonice fulminare: illum vero, ad quem oſtiorum clauſtri cuſtodia pertinet, ſi propter illius negligenciam ſive culpam tranſitus *hujuſmodi* ſuſtineatur indebite, ut prefertur;

prefertur; pro ſingulis vicibus, quibus hoc factum fuerit, ſingulis quartis feriis in pane, ſerviſia, et legumine dumtaxat jejunet; et, ſi nec ſic ſe correxerit debite in hac parte, ab officio deponatur, ac alius, magis providus, loco ſuo celeriter ſubrogetur.

No. V. Item quia oſtia eccleſie atq; clauſtri prioratus veſtri predicti non ſervantur nec ſerantur temporibus debitis, nec modo debito, ut deceret; ſed cuſtodia eorundem agitur et omittitur multociens necgligenter; adeo quod *ſuſpecte perſone* et *alie inhoneſte* per eccleſiam et clauſtrum *hujuſmodi* incedunt frequenter in tenebris atq; umbris, temporibus eciam ſuſpectis et illicitis, indecenter; unde dampna et ſcandala varia pluries provenerunt, et im poſterum veriſimiliter poterunt provenire; Vobis, ut ſupra, mandamus, firmiter injungentes, quatinus dicta oſtia de cetero claudi faciatis, et clauſa per miniſtros idoneos cuſtodiri temporibus debitis, prout decet; vobis inhibentes expreſſe, ne oſtia eccleſie veſtre predicte, (illa videlicet que inter navem ipſius eccleſie et chorum ejuſdem exiſtunt) nec oſtia clauſtri que ducunt ad extra, et per que introitus ſecularium in ipſum clauſtrum patere poterit, de mane, antequam prima incipiatur in choro; aut commeſtionis tempore; nec eciam de ſero, poſtquam conventus collationem inceperit; niſi in cauſa utili vel neceſſaria per priorem vel ſuppriorem, ut convenit, approbanda, aperiantur de cetero quovis modo: ad que fideliter exequenda ſacriſtam, qui pro tempore fuerit, ad cujus officium premiſſa pertinent ſub pena amocionis ab officio ſuo arcius oneramus, acrius per nos puniendum prout nobis videbitur expedire.

No. VI. Item quia nonnulli concanonici et confratres prioratus veſtri minus ſapiunt in lectura, non intelligentes quid legant, ſed literas quaſi prorſus ignorantes, dum pſallunt vel legunt, accentum brevem pro longo ponunt pluries, et e contra; et per invia gradi-

entes ſanum ſcripturarum intellectum adulterantur multociens, et pervertunt; fitque, ut dum ſcripturas ſacras non ſapiant, ad perpetrandum illicita proniores reddantur: Vobis Domino Priori in virtute obedientie, firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus, cum legere et non intelligere ſit negligere, noviciis et aliis minus ſufficienter literatis idoneus de cetero deputetur magiſter, qui ipſos in cantu et aliis primitivis ſcienciis inſtruat diligenter juxta regularia inſtituta; quatinus, in eiſdem perfectius eruditi, cecitatis ſquamis et ignorancie nebulis depoſitis, que legant intelligant et agnoſcant, et contemplandum clarius miſteria Scripturarum efficiantur, ut convenit, promciores.

No. VII. Item quia conſtituciones ſive decretales Romanorum Pontificum veſtrum ordinem concernentes, (ille videlicet de quibus in conſtitucionibus recolende memorie Domini Ottoboni, quondam ſedis Apoſtolice in Anglia legate, ſit menſio ſpecialis) inter vos nullatenus recitantur, prout per conſtituciones ejuſdem legati recitari mandantur; unde, dum decretales ipſas et contenta in eis penitus ignoratis, committitis multociens que prohibentur expreſſius per eaſdem in veſtrarum periculum animarum: Vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus, ne ignoranciam aliquam pretendere poteritis in hac parte, decretales predictas, prout in prefatis domini conſtitucionibus Ottoboni plenius recitantur, in quodam quaterno ſeu volumine abſque more diſpendio faciatis conſcribi; ipſas bis ſingulis annis in veſtro capitulo, juxta formam conſtitutionum dictarum, recitari clarius facientes, ad informacionem rudium et perfectionem eciam provectorum; adjicientes preterea, ut magiſtri noviciorum preſencium et eciam futurorum ipſos in regula S^ti. Auguſtini diligentur inſtruant et informant, ipſam regulam eis vulgariter exponendo; quodque iidem novicii per frequentem recitacionem ejuſdem illam ſciant quaſi cordetenus, ſicut in dictis conſtitucionibus

conſtitucionibus plenius continetur, per quam incedere poterint via recta et errorum tenebras caucius evitare: ſuper execucione vero premiſſorum debite facienda dominum priorem prioratus veſtri predicti arcius oneramus quatinus ea que premiſimus in hoc caſu ſub pena ſuſpenſionis ab ipſius officio per menſem diligencius exequatur.

No. VIII. Item quia canonici et confratres prioratus veſtri predicti, ipſorum propriam voluntatem pocius quam utilitatem communem ſectantes, non veſtes neceſſarias, cum opus fuerit, ſed certam et limitatam ac determinatam quantitatem peccunie, velut annuum redditum, pro veſtibus *hujuſmodi* percipiunt annuatim, contra regulam S^ti. Auguſtini ac domini Ottoboni et aliorum ſanctorum patrum canonica inſtituta; fitque, ut, dum effrenis illa religioſorum cupiditas, aliena ſpecie colorata, vetita concupiſcat, ſancta religio, ſolutis conſtantie frenis, in luxum labentem ad latitudinis tramites que ducunt ad mortem, miſerabiliter noſcitur declinare: cui quidem morbo peſtifero, ne putreſcat et vermes generet corruptivos, mederi cicius cupientes nichil novi ſtatuendo ſed ſanctorum patrum veſtigiis inherendo, volumus ac eciam ordinamus, quod canonicis et confratribus memoratis preſentibus et futuris de bonis et facultatibus communibus prioratus veſtri predicti veſtris uſibus deputatis veſtes et calciamenta, cum indiguerint, neceſſaria, juxta facultates predictas, et nullo modo peccuniam, pro eiſdem, per eos qui ſuper hiis miniſtrandi gerent officium de cetero miniſtrentur; veſtes vero inveteratas et ineptas *hujuſmodi* canonicorum camerario communi tradi volumus pauperibus erogandas juxta regulam S^ti. Auguſtini, et alias canonicas ſanctiones contrarium vero facientes, ſi camerarius fuerit, penam ſuſpenſionis ab officio ipſum incurrere volumus ipſo facto; ſi vero alius canonicus de conventu exiſtat, preter

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alias p̄mas regulares tam peccunia quam eciam indumentis novis careat illo anno.

No. IX. Item quia nonnulli canonici et confratres Prioratus veſti predicti opportunitate captata, extra ſepta Prioratus abſque ſocietate honeſta, evagandi cauſa, nulla ſuper hoc optenta licencia, ſe transferunt pluries indecenter; alii preterea provectiores certis officiis deputati ad maneria et loca alia officiis *hujuſmodi* aſſignata equitant, quando placet, ibidem manentes pro eorum libito volantatis, nullo canonico ipſis in ſocium aſſignato, contra ordinis decenciam et religionis eciam honeſtatem, conſtitucioneſque Sanctorum Patrum editas in hac parte: Cum igitur religioſos extra eorum Prioratum ſic vagari aut in eorum maneriis vel eccleſiis eis appropriatis ſoli manere expreſſe prohibeant canonica inſtituta; nos, premiſſa fieri de cetero prohibentes. Vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus, cum aliquis Prioratus veſtri canonicus vel confrater ſuper vel pro negociis propriis vel eciam communibus exire contigerit, prius ad hoc a Priore vel Suppriore, ſi preſentes in Prioratu fuerint, alioquin, ipſis abſentibus, ab ipſo qui protunc conventui preeſſe contigerit, licenciam habeat ſpecialem; cui aſſignari volumus unum canonicum in ſocium, ne ſuſpicio ſiniſtra vel ſcandalum oriatur; qui, aſſociata eiſdem juxta qualitatem negocii cometiva honeſta, in eundo et eciam redeundo gravitate ſervata modeſtius ſemper incedant, et expletis negociis ad Prioratum cicius revertantur, que regularibus conveniunt inſtitutis devocius impleturi: contrarium vero facientes, abſque remiſſione ſeu accepcione qualibet perſonarum, regularem ſubeant diſciplinam; ſuper quo preſidencium conventus conſciencias arcius oneramus, ipſoſque nichilominus pro ſingulis vicibus, quibus exceſſerint in premiſſis, ſingulis ſextis feriis in pane et aqua jejunent;

jejunent; et si officiarius fuerit, ipso facto, si aliquod canonicum non obsistat, ab ipsius officio sit suspensus.

No. X. Item quia comperimus evidenter, quod nonnulli canonici domus vestre, secundum carnem pocius quam secundum spiritum dissolute viventes, nulla causa racionabili subsistente, nudi jacent in lectis absque femoralibus et camisiis contra eorum observancias regulares; Vobis igitur fermiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus vos omnes et singuli canonici S^ti. Augustini regulam et in ea parte ordinis vestri canonica instituta de cetero efficaciter observetis: contrarium vero facientes singulis quartis feriis in pane, servisia, et legumine tantummodo sint contenti; si quis vero post trinam correptionem reus inventus fuerit in hac parte pro singulis vicibus singulis extunc feriis sextis in pane et aqua hunc precipimus jejunare; Priorem vero ac Suppriorem domus predicte sub pena suspensionis ab officiis eorundem arcius onerantes, quatinus super premissis sepius et diligenter inquirant, et quos culpabiles invenerint eos penis predictis percellere non postponant.

No. XI. Item quia nonnullos canonicos et confratres Prioratus vestri predicti publicos reperimus venatores ac venacionibus *hujusmodi* spreto jugo regularis observancie, publice intendentes, ac canes tenentes venaticos, contra regularia instituta; unde dissolutiones quamplures, animarum pericula corporumque, ac rerum dispendia multociens oriuntur; nos volentes hoc frequens vicium a Prioratu predicto radicitus extirpare; Vobis omnibus et singulis tenore presencium inhibemus, vobis *nichilominus* firmiter injungentes, ne quisquam canonicorum Prioratus vestri predicti publicis venacionibus vel clamosis ex proposito intendere de cetero, vel eciam intersse; canesve venaticos per se vel alios tenere presumat, publice vel occulte, infra Prioratum vel extra, contra formam

formam capituli, "NE IN AGRO DOMINICO," et alias canonicas ſanctiones; per hoc autem Prioratus veſtri predicti nec juri vel conſuetudini, quod vel quam habere dinoſcitur, in ea parte non intendimus in aliquo derogare: contrarium vero facientes preter diſciplinas et penas alias canonicas pro ſingulis vicibus ſingulis quartis et ſextis feriis in pane et ſerviſia jejunando precipimus caſtigari.

No. XII. Item quia canonici Prioratus veſtri predicti quibus officia forinſeca et intrinſeca committuntur, fingunt ſe, cum poſſent et deberent in choro divinis officiis intereſſe, in officiis *hujuſmodi* ſibi commiſſis multociens occupari, que poſſent ante vel poſt horas *hujuſmodi* commode fieri, et eciam exerceri; propter quod cultus divinus minuitur, et alii clauſtrales nimium onerantur; Vobis in virtute ſancte obedientie et ſub pena excommunicacionis majoris firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus officiarii quicunque eccleſie veſtre predicte in choro ejuſdem divinis officiis a modo perſonaliter interſint, niſi ex cauſa legitima officiorum ſuorum et per preſidentem conventus, qui pro tempore fuerit, approbanda, eos contigerit abſentare; in quo caſu de et ſuper abſencia ſua legalitateque cauſarum pretenſarum in hac parte ipſorum preſidencium et officiariorum conſciencias apud altiſſimum diſtrictius oneramus.

No. XIII. Item, quia juxta ſapientis doctrinam ubi majus iminet periculum, ibi caucius eſt agendum, volumus et eciam ordinamus, quod duo canonici diſcreti et idonei de conventu Prioratus veſtri predicti per ipſum conventum vel majorem partem ejuſdem annis ſingulis de cetero eligantur, qui bis in anno ad maneria, tam Priori quam eciam pro reſtentacione conventus *hujuſmodi* ceteris que officiariis aſſignata, perſonaliter ſe transferant

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et accedant, ſtatum maneriorum ipſorum tam in edificiis quam eciam in ſtauro vivo vel mortuo plenarie ſupervifuri; quique ſuper hiis que invenerunt in eiſdem conventui ſupradicto relacionem fidelem in ſcriptis, ut convenit, facere teneantur; ut, ſi mors alicujus officiarii vel caſus ilius fortuitus evenerit, de ſtatu officii *hujuſmodi* cujuſcumque conventum non lateat memoratum; premiſſa vero vobis precipimus efficaciter obſervanda ſub pena noſtro arbitrio limitanda, vobis, ſi in hiis necgligentes fueritis vel remiſſi, acrius infligenda.

No. XIV. Item quia ſolitus et antiquus numerus canonicorum in Prioratu veſtis predicto, quod dolenter referimus, adeo jam decrevit, ac eciam minuitur in preſenti, quod ubi xiiii. canonici vel circiter in habitu et obſervanciis regularibus in dicto Prioratu ſolebant Altiſſimo devocius famulari, (quibus de bonis et poſſeſſionibus ipſius Prioratus veſtri communibus que poſſidetis in victu et veſtitu juxta decenciam ordinis regularis honorifice ac debite fuerat miniſtratum) modo vero undecim canonici dumtaxat exiſtunt et ſerviunt in eodem; quo fit, ut dum regis regum cultum attenuet cohabitancium paucitas, contra multiformis nequitie hoſtem minuatur exercitus bellatorum: Cum igitur juxta prefati domini Ottoboni conſtitutiones aliorumque ſanctorum patrum canonica inſtituta, canonicorum antiquus numerus ſit ſervandus, ac juxta ſapientis doctrinam " In multitudine " populi ſit dignitas regis, et in paucitate plebis ignominia " principis accendatur;" Vobis in virtute ſancte obedientie ac ſub pena majoris excomm. firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus, cum omni diligentia et celeritate debitis, de viris idoneis religioni diſpoſitis, et honeſtis vobis abſque more diſpendio providere curetis; ipſos in ordinem veſtrum regularem in ſuppie-

cionem majoris numeri requiſiti, ſeu ſaltem illius numeri canonicorum ad quorum ſuſtentacionem congruam, aliis oneribus vobis incumbentibus debite ſupportatis, veſtre jam habite ſuppetunt facultates; ſuper quibus veſtram et cujuſlibet veſtrum conſcienciam arcius oneramus; celerius admittentes, ad augmentum cultus divini et perfectionem majorem ordinis regularis, pro fundatoribus et benefactoribus veſtris devocius, ut convenit, interceſſuros.

No. XV. Item quia comperimus evidenter quod vos, domine Prior, cui ex debito veſtri officii hoc incumbit, de proprietariis canonicis Prioratus veſtri predicti, juxta conſtitutiones domini legati editas in hac parte, inquiſicionem debitam hactenus non feciſtis, miniſterium vobis creditum in ea parte necgligentius omittendo; quo fit, ut ille peſtifer hoſtis antiquus paſtoris conſiderans continuatam deſideam oves miſeras et errantes, ipſius hoſtis nequiſſimi fraude deceptas in ſitim avaricie prolabentes laqueo proprietatis ſeduxit, contra ſanctorum patrum canonica inſtituta, in ſuarum grave periculum animarum; Vos igitur requirimus et monemus, vobiſque in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus dicti legati conſtitutiones, ut convenit, imitantes ſuper proprietariis *hujuſmodi* ſaltim bis in anno inquiſicionem faciatis de cetero diligentem; ipſos, ſi quos inveneritis, animadverſione condigna juxta regularia inſtituta canonice punientes; ſi vero id adimplere necglexentis, adminiſtracione veſtra, ipſo facto noveritis vos privatum, donec premiſſa fueritis diligenter executi, prout in conſtit. homini ottoboni legati predicti plenius continetur.

No. XVI. Item, cum ſecundum conſtit. dicti legati et aliorum ſanctorum patrum canonica inſtituta, abbates et priores, proprios abbates non habentes, nec non officiarii quicunque teneantur bis ſaltim ſingulis annis preſente toto conventu vel aliquibus ex ſenioribus ad hoc a capitulo deputatis de ſtatu Prioratus et de adminiſtracione

miniſtracione ſua plenariam reddere rationem, quod tum in Prioratu veſtro predicto invenimus hactenus non ſervatum, unde plura ſecuntur incommoda, et veſtre utilitati communi plurimum derogatur; Vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus prefati domini legati, domini videlicet Ottoboni, necnon bone memorie domini Stephani quondam Archiepiſcopi Cant. conſtit. editas in hac parte, faciatis inter vos de cetero firmiter obſervari, ſub pena ſuſpenſionis officiariorum ipſorum ab eorum *hujuſmodi* officiis, dictique Prioris ab adminiſtracione ſua, quam, ſi premiſſa necglexerint obſervare, ipſo facto, donec id perfecerint, ſe noverint incurriſſe, prout in dictis conſtit. dicti Ottoboni plenius continetur.

No. XVII. Item quia in Prioratu veſtro predicto et eccleſia ejuſdem ac in nonnullis domibus, edificiis, muris et clauſuris eccleſie veſtre prelibate, necnon maneriorum ipſius Prioratus certis diverſis officiis deputatorum, quas et quæ predeceſſorum et predeceſſorum veſtrorum induſtria ſumptuoſe conſtruxerat, quamplures enormes et notabiles ſunt defectus, reparatione neceſſaria indigentes; unde ſtatum ipſius Prioratus ac maneriorum predictorum deformitas occupat, et multa incommoda inſecuntur; Vobis igitur in virtute obedientie firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus defectus *hujuſmodi*, pro veſtra utilitate communi abſque dilacionis incommodo, quamcicius poteritis, juxta vires reparari debite faciatis; alioquin Priorem ceteroſque officiarios quoſcumque, qui in premiſſis necgligentes fuerint vel remiſſi, niſi infra ſex menſes poſt notificacionem preſencium ſibi factam ad debitam reparationem defectuum *hujuſmodi* ſe preparaverint, cum effectu, ipſo facto ab officiis ſuis *hujuſmodi* ſint ſuſpenſi.

No. XVIII. Item, quia per vendiciones et conceſſiones liberacionum et *corrodiorum* hactenus per vos factas, reperimus dictum Prioratum

oratum multipliciter fore gravatum, adeo quod ea, que ad divini cultus augmentum, ſuſtentacionem pauperum, et infirmorum, pia devocio fidelium erogavit, mercenariorum ceca cupiditas jam abſorbet; fitque, ut dum bona ejuſdem Prioratus in alios uſus quam debitos, ne dixerimus in prophanos, nepharie convertantur, altiſſimo famulancium in eadem numerus minuitur, pauperes et infirmi ſuis porcionibus, ac ipſa eccleſia divinis obſequiis nequiter defraudantur, contra intencionem piiſſimam fundatorum, in veſtrarum periculum animarum; Indempnitati igitur ipſius eccleſie veſtre in hac parte debite providere, dictum quoque tam frequens incommodum ab eadem radicitus extirpare volentes, bone memorie domini Ottoboni legati predicti aliorumque ſanctorum patrum veſtigiis inherentes; Vobis tenore preſencium diſtrictius inhibemus, eciam ſub pena excomm. majoris, ne *corrodia*, liberaciones, aut penſiones perſonis aliquibus imperpetuum vel ad tempus vendatis de cetero, vel aliqualiter concedatis, abſque noſtro conſenſu et licencia ſpeciali; preſertim cum vendiciones *hujuſmodi*, que ſpecies alienacionis exiſtunt, Prioratus veſtri predicti detrimentum procurent et enormem eciam generat leſionem; ſi quis vero contra hanc noſtram inhibicionem aliquid attemptare preſumpſerit, niſi id quod ſic preſumpſerit revocaverit, ab officio ſit ſuſpenſus prout in conſtit. domini Ottoboni clarius continetur.

No. XIX. Item quia quedam certe perpetue cantarie pro fundatoribus et aliis benefactoribus veſtris tam in genere quam in ſpecie antiquitus conſtitute per diverſos preſbyteros in Prioratu veſtro predicto debite celebrande, pro quibus plura donaria recipiſtis a multis retro actis temporibus, ac eciam de preſenti, ut aſſeritur, ſunt ſubſtracte, contra piam intencionem ac ordinacionem eciam fundatorum, in veſtrarum grave periculum animarum; Vobis igitur, in virtute ſancte obedientie ac ſub majoris excom.

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ſententie pena, firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus cantarias predictas juxta formam inſtitucionum et ordinacionum earum faciatis de cetero debite celebrari, ac eiſdem congrue deſerviri, ſi redditus et proventus ad *hujuſmodi* cantarias antiquitus aſſignati ad hoc ſufficiant hiis diebus, alioquin prout redditus et proventus earum, aliis omnibus eiſdem incumbentibus debite ſupportatis, ſufficiunt de preſenti, dolo et fraude ceſſantibus quibuſcunque; ſuper quo veſtram conſcienciam arcius oneramus, a modo deſerviri debite faciatis.

No. XX. Item vobis et omnibus et ſingulis in virtute ſancte obediencie ac ſub majoris excom. ſentencie pena firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus elemoſinas in Prioratu veſtro predicto antiquitus fieri conſuetas, et eas ad quas tenemini ex ordinacione antiqua pro animabus fundatorum et aliorum benefactorum veſtrorum juxta facultates veſtras ſuper quibus veſtras conſciencias arctius oneramus, prout divinam effugere volueritis ulcionem diſtribui de cetero faciatis; precipientes preterea quod fragmenta ſeu reliquiæ tam de aula Prioris quam eciam de refectorio proveniencià, abſque diminucione qualibet, per elimoſinarium vel ipſius locum tenentem integre colligantur, pauperibus fideliter eroganda; alioquin, ſi elimoſinarius *hujuſmodi* remiſſus vel negligens fuerit in premiſſis, penam ſuſpenſionis ab officio ſe noverit incurſurum.

No. XXI. Item quia debilibus et infirmis humanitatis preberi ſubſidium jubet caritas, et pietas intelpellat; Vobis domino Priori ceteris obedienciariis Prioratus veſtri predicti, quorum intereſt in hac parte in virtute ſancte obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus confratribus veſtris debilibus et infirmis, ipſorum infirmitate durante, in eſculentes et poculentes eorum infirmitatibus congruentibus, necnon in medicinis et aliis juxta infirmitatis *hujuſmodi* qualitatem et Prioratus facultates, de bonis veſtris communibus

munibus et ſicut antiquitus fieri conſueverat de cetero faciatis debite procurari, ſub pena ſuſpenſionis ab officiis veſtris ſi circa premiſſa necgligentes fueritis vel remiſſi, ipſo facto, quouſq; id quod necgligenter omiſſum fuerit perfeceritis, incurrenda; prout in conſtit. domini Ottoboni plenius continetur; ſtatuentes preterea quod camere infirmaria veſtra, cum opus fuerit, infirmis canonicis ſint communes, ne, quod abſit, aliquis ſibi retineat in eiſdem vel vendicet proprietatem, contra ſancti Auguſtini regulam et conſtit. ſanctorum patrum editas in hac parte.

No. XXII. Item cum necgligencia ſive remiſſio in perſonis precidencium ſit plurimum deteſtanda, facilitas quoq; venie incentivum prebeat delinquendi; Vobis domino Priori, Suppriori, aliiſq; conventus predicti preſidentibus quibuſcumq; preſentibus et futuris, in virtute ſancte obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus, Quatinus, cum correctiones in perſonis ipſius conventus imineant faciende, ipſas, prout ad vos pertinet, abſq; acceptione qualibet perſonarum juxta quantitatem delictorum et perſonarum qualitatem veſtraſq; obſervancias regulares cum maturitate debita, et diſcretione previa, facere ſtudeatis; alioquin vos ſuppriorem ceteroſq; preſidentes predictos, ſi necgligentes vel remiſſi aut culpabiles fueritis in premiſſis, canonica noſtra monicione premiſſa penam ſuſpencionis ab officiis veſtris extunc incurrere volumus ipſo facto, donec *hujuſmodi* negligenciam, remiſſionem, culpam, vel defidiam a vobis excuſſeritis in hac parte; pena prefacto domino Priori in hoc caſu, ut convenit, infligenda nobis ſpecialiter reſervata.

No. XXIII. Item cum conſuetudines laudabiles Prioratus cujuſcumq; ordinacioneſque ac ſtatuta que uſus longevi temporis approbavit merito ſint ſervandæ; Vobis domino Priori ac ſingulis officiariis Prioratus veſtri predicti preſentibus et futuris in virtute ſancte obediencie,

obediencie, et ſub penis infra ſcriptis, firmiter injungendo mandamus; Quatinus pitancias et alias diſtribuciones quaſcunque, in quibuſcunque rebus conſiſtant et quocunque nomine cenſeantur, in obitibus, anniverſarius feſtivitatibus, aut aliis diebus, conventui, aut ab uno officio alii officio ex ordinacione antiqua debitas et conſuetas, in canonicum aliquod non obſiſtat a modo faciatis perſolvi, ſub pena porcionis duple, cujus partem unam conventui predicto, alteram vero partem certis piis uſibus noſtro arbitrio limitandis debite perſolvendam ſpecialiter reſervamus.

No. XXIV. Item cum vendiciones boſcorum, firme maneriorum vel eciam eccleſiarum, aut alia domus veſtre ardua negocia imineant facienda, illa, ſine tractatu ac deliberacione provida cum conventu predicto ac eorum conſenſu expreſſo vel majoris et ſanioris partis ejuſdem, de cetero fieri prohibemus; aliter autem *hujuſmodi* negocia ardua facta nullius exiſtunt firmitatis; et nichilominus Priorem alioſque officiarios quoſcumq; qui contra preſentem prohibitionem noſtram quicquam attemptaverint in premiſſis, penam ſuſpenſionis ab officiis eorundem ipſo facto ſe noverint incurſuros, cum ex *hujuſmodi* factis privatis eccleſiis diſpendia multociens provenerunt; illa quoque que omnes tangunt ab omnibus merito debeant approbari.

No. XXV. Item volumus ac eciam ordinamus, quod ſigillum veſtrum commune ſub quinque clavibus ad minus de cetero cuſtodiatur; quarum unam penes Priorem, ſecundam penes ſuppriorem, terciam penes precentorem, et reliquas duas claves penes confratres alios per conventum ad hoc nominandos decrevimus remanere, per ipſos fideliter cuſtodiendas; inhibentes preterea ſub pena excom. majoris ne quicquam cum dicto ſigillo communi a modo ſigelletur, niſi litera *hujuſmodi* ſigellanda primitus legatur, inſpiciatur, et eciam intelligatur a majore et ſaniore parte tocius

conventus,

conventus, et ad ipſam ſigillandam communis veſter prebeatur conſenſus, cum ex facto *hujuſmodi* plura poſſunt diſpendia veriſimiliter provenire; ad hac vobis omnibus et ſingulis tenore preſencium inhibemus, ne *compatres alicujus pueri* de cetero fieri preſumatis, noſtra ſuper hoc licencia non obtenta, cum ex *hujuſmodi* cognacionibus religioſis domibus diſpendia ſepius invenire noſcuntur; contrarium vero facientes, preter diſciplinas alias regulares, ſingulis ſextis feriis per menſem proxime tunc ſequentem in pane et aqua jejunando precipimus caſtigari.

No. XXVI. Item quia nonnulli canonici domus veſtre predicte, freno abjecto obſervancie regularis, *caligis* de *Burneto* et ſotular*ium* baſp. in *ocrearum* loco ad modum ſotularium uti publice non verentur, contra conſuetudinem antiquam laudabilem ordinis ſupradicti, in pernicioſum exemplum et ſcandalum plurimorum; nos igitur honeſtatem dicti ordinis obſervare volentes, Vobis domino Priori in virtute ſancte obediencie firmiter injugendo mandamus, Quatinus quoſcumq; veſtros canonicos et confratres ad utendun de cetero ocreis ſeu botis ſecundum antiquas veſtri ordinis obſervancias regulares per quaſcumq; cenſuras eccleſiaſticas, et, ſi opus fuerit, par incarceracionis penam canonice compellatis, ſub pena ſuſpenſionis ab officio veſtro predicto.

No. XXVII. Item quia tres vel due partes conventus domus veſtre non comedunt cotidie in refectorio, prout conſtitutiones ſanctorum patrum ſanxerunt providè in hac parte; Vobis dicti Prioratus conventui firmiter injungendo mandamus, Quatinus tres vel ſaltem due partes veſtrum cotidie in refectorio hora prandii de cetero comedant et remaneant debite, ſicut decet; vobis arcius injungentes, quod nullus veſtrum in manſiunculis aut locis aliis privatis eciam cum hoſpitibus ſuis regularibus vel ſecularibus vel confratibus ſuis comedat; hoſtilaria cum hoſpitibus, refectorio in

in communi miſericordia, cauſa recreacionis, et aula Prioris dumtaxat exceptis; hanc tamen Prior apponat providenciam diligentem, ut, ſine perſonarum accepcione, nunc hos nunc illos ad refectionem convocet, quos magis noverit indigere; ſuper execucione vero debita premiſſorum Priorem ac alios conventui preſidentes ſub pena ſuſpenſionis ab eorum officiis arctius oneramus.

No. XXVIII. Item, cum ſecundum ſanctorum patrum conſtituciones, juniores canonici a ſuis prelatis vivendi normam habeant aſſumere, ac iidem prelati ſuper ſua converſacione teſtium copiam debeant obtinere; Vobis domino Priori in virtute obedientie diſtricte precipiendo mandamus, Quatinus capellanum veſtrum canonicum ſingulis de cetero mutetis annis, juxta conſtitutiones ſanctorum patrum editas in hac parte; ut ſic, qui vobiſcum fuerint in officio predicto, per doctrine laudabilis exercicium plus valeant in religione proficere, ac eos innocencie teſtes, ſi vobis, quod abſit, crimen aliquod ſeu ſcandalum per aliquorum invidiam imponatur, prompte poteritis invocare.

No. XXIX. Item, cum communis exquiſitus ornatus preſertim in religioſis perſonis a jure ſit penitus interdictus; Vobis tenore preſencium inhibemus, ne quivis veſtram de cetero in ſuis veſtibus *furruris* precioſis aut *manicis* nodulatis *zonisve* ſericis auri vel argenti ornatum habentibus utatur de cetero quovis modo, cum abuſus *hujuſmodi* ad pompam et oſtentacionem ac ſcandalum ordinis manifeſte tendere dinoſcatur.

No. XXX. Item, quia ſingula officia ſunt ſingulis committenda perſonis; Vobis in virtute obediencie et ſub excom. ſententie pena firmiter injungendo mandamus, ut officia ſingula veſtri Prioratus, que per canonicos officiarios gubernari ſolebant, per officiarios *hujuſmodi*, per vos communiter vel diviſim juxta Prio-

ratus predicti morem solitum eligendos, quibus ipsa officia, ut olim, committi volumus exercenda, singulariter de cetero gubernentur.

XXXI. Item, cum plus timeri soleat id quod specialiter injungitur quam quod generaliter imperatur; Vobis omnibus et singulis inhibemus, ne aliquis vestrum, ad curam animarum non admissus, clericis aut laicis sacramentum unctionis extreme vel euchauristia ministrare, matrimonia ve solempnizare, non habita super hiis parochialis presbyteri licencia, quomodolibet presumatis, sub pena excom. majoris sententie in hac parte a canone fulminate.

XXXII. Item quia comperimus in nostris visitacionibus supradictis vasa et pallas altaris, necnon et vestimenta sacra ecclesie vestre, atque corporalia, tam immunda relinqui, quod interdum aliquibus sunt horrori; ut igitur honor debitus divinis impendatur; Vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus, Quatinus vasa, corporalia, pallas, et vestimenta predicta, ac cetera ecclesie ornamenta munda nitida et honesta decetero conserventur hoc quoq; insuper injungentes, ut in ecclesiâ vestra celebrantibus *vinum bonum*, purum, et incorruptum ad sacramentum altaris conficiendum per eum qui super hoc gerit officium, et non *corruptum*, et *acetosum*, prout fieri consueverit, imposterum ministretur; nimis enim videtur absurdum in sacris sordes necgligere, que dedecerunt in prophanis.

XXXIII. Item licet sanctorum reliquias, vasa, aut vestimenta sacra seu libros ecclesie in *vadem dari*, aut pignori obligari canonica prohibeant instituta, a vobis tamen in dictis visitacionibus comperimus contrarium esse factum; Vobis igitur domino Priori, tenore presencium, firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus ab *hujusmodi* impignoracionibus extra casus a jure permissos vos decetero penetus abstinentes, *hujusmodi* pignori obligata curetis recolligere, et ea ecclesie

ecclesie vestre restituere, absq; more dispendio, sicut decet; statuentes preterea ut omnes carte ac munimenta quecumq; statum bona et possessiones domus vestre qualitercumq; contingentes, sub tribus seruris et clavibus remaneant, futuris temporibus fideliter conservande.

XXXIV. Item cum religiosi de bono in melius continue debeant proficisci, ac ex sacre scripture lectione et inspectione qualiter id faciant plenius instrui valeant; Vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus, ut, completis hiis, que ad vestri ordinis et regularis discipline observanciam pertinent atq; spectant, in clausstro sedentes scripture sacre lectioni sancteq; contemplacioni devocius insistatis, sicq secundum regule vestre exigenciam taliter codices inspiciendos requiratis, ut in eis quid fugiendum quid subsequendum ac cujusmodi premium inde consequendum fuerit agnoscere valeatis.

XXXV. Item vobis Domino Priori injungimus, quod cum parentes vel consanguinei alicujus confratris vestri ad eum accesserint, causa visitandi eundem, liberaliter secundum statum sui exigentiam per vos vel illum qui super hoc ministrandi gerit officium infra Prioratum honeste et debite procurentur; sed videant fratres ne nimis sint in talibus Prioratui onerosi.

XXXVI. Item quia parum est jura condere nisi executioni debita demandentur, ea quoque solent labili memorie eo tenacius commendari quo veraciter audientium auribus fuerint sepius inculcata; et, ne vestrum quis piam ignorantiam pretendere valeat premissorum; Vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus, quatinus has nostras injunctiones et decreta pariter supradicta in aliquo volumine competenti absque more dispendio conscribi plenius faciatis, eaque omnia et singula bis annis singulis de cetero coram toto conventu plenius recitari; vos nichilominus omnes et singulos monemus primo secundo et tercio peremptorie, vobis insuper in

virtute obediencie arctius injungentes, quatinus ipsas injunctiones noſtras et decreta predicta omnia et ſingula prout ad vos et veſtrum quemlibet pertinent et ſingulariter vos concernunt, teneatis de cetero ac eciam obſervetis, ſub penis et cenſuris eccleſiaſticis ſupradictis, et aliis penis canonicis in contravenientes quoſcumque, prout contumacia delinquencium exegerit, per nos impoſterum canonice infligendis. Poteſtatem autem premiſſa corrigendi, mutandi in toto vel in parte, interpretandi, declarandi et eiſdem addendi, et eciam detrahendi, ac penas adjiciendi, ſuſpendendi, necnon ſuper compertis aliis in viſitatione noſtra predicta procedendi, criminaque et defectus ac exceſſus in ipſa comperta et delata corrigendi, ac canonice puniendi, et ſuper ipſis novas injunctiones inſuper faciendas, ſicut et prout opus fuerit et nobis videbitur expedire, nobis eciam ſpecialiter reſervamus. In quorum omnium teſtimonium ſigillum noſtrum fecimus hiis apponi. Dat. apud Wynton viceſimo ſeptimo die menſis Septembris anno Domini milleſimo ccc° octogeſimo ſeptimo et noſtre conſecrationis anno viceſimo.

(L. S.)

NUMBER

NUMBER IV.

(No. 50.)

INDENTURA PRIORIS *de* SELBORNE *quorundam tradit. Petro Barnes ſacriſtæ ibidem ann. Hen.* 6. - - - *una cum conſiſſ. ejuſdem Petri ſcript.*

HEC indentura facta die lune proxime poſt ffeſtum natalium Dñi anno *regis* Henrici ſexti poſt conqueſtum anglie v. - - - - - inter ffratrem Johannem Stepe priorem eccleſie beate Marie de Selborne & Petrum Bernes ſacriſt. ibidem videlicet quod predictus prior deliveravit prefato Petro omnia ſubſcripta In primis XXII amit XXXI aubes vid. v. ſine parura pro quadrageſima XXII manicul. Item XXII ſtole Item VIII caſule vid. III albe pro quadrageſima Item XI dalmatic. vid. I debit. Item XVI cape vid. IIII veteres Item unam amittam I albam cum paruris unum manipulum I ſtolam I caſulam et duas dalmaticas de dono Johannis Combe capellani de Ciceſtria pro diebus principalibus Item I amittam I aubam cum paruris I manupulum I ſtolam I caſulam de dono ffratris Thome Halybone canonicis Item I amittam I aubam cum paruris I manupulum I ſtolam I caſulam pertinentem ad altare ſancte Catherine virginis pro priore Item I amittam II aubas cum paruris II manipli II ſtolas et II caſulas pertinentes ad altare ſancti Petri de dono patris Ricardi holte Item de dono

ejuſdem

ejuſdem II tuella vid. I cum fruictello et I canvas pro eodem altare Item I tuellum pendentem ad terram pro quadrageſima Item VI tuell cum ffruictibus XV tuell ſine ffruictell Item IIII tuell pro lavatore Item V corporas Item II ffruictell pro ſummo altare ſine tuellis Item II coopertor pro le ceſte Item II pallias de ſerico debili Item I velum pro quadrageſima Item I tapetum viridi coloris pro ſummo altare II ridell cum IIII ridellis parvis pertinent. ad dict. altare Item VII offretor vid. V debit. Item IIII vexilla Item IIII pelves III queſſones vid. I de ſerico Item II ſuper altaria Item quinq; calices vid. IIII de auro Item II cruettes de argento de dono dni Johannis Combe capellani de Ciceſtre Item VIII cruettes de peuter Item I coupam argent. et deaur. Item II *oſculator argent.* Item I oſculatorium cum oſſe *digiti auricular Sti. Johannis Baptiſte* Item I crux argent. et deaur. non radicat. Item turribulum argent et deaur. Item I anulum cum ſaphiro Item I aliud anulum I politum aureum Item I anulum argent. et deauratum *Sti. Edmundi.* Item I concha cum pereo infixo Item I ciſtam argent. et deaur. Item I imaginem beate Marie argent. et deaurat. Item I parvam crucem *cum* V *reliquiis* Item I *junctorium Sti. Ricardi* Item I tecam pro reliquiis imponend Item I *calefactor Sti. Ricardi* Item IIII candelebra vid. II de ſtagno et II de ferro Item I *pectен Sti. Ricardi* Item II viell de criſtall In parte fract Item I pelvim de coper ad lavator Item II *oſculat. de coper* Item I parvum terribulum de latyn Item I vas de coper pro frank et ſence conſecrand Item I pixidem de juery pro corpore Chriſti Item II vaſa de plumbo pro oleo conſervando Item I patellam eneam ferro ligat. Item I tripodem ferr. Item I coſtrell contum II lagen et I potrell. Item II babyngyres Item II botelles de corio vid. I de quarte et I de pynte Item III anul. arg. et I pixidem Ste Marie de Waddon Item ( )

Inſtrumenta

Inſtrumenta pro Sandyng Item I ledbnyff Item I ſhaſshobe Item I ſecurim Item II ſcabell. de ferro pro cancell Item I plane Item I ciſtam ſine cerura Item XIIII ſonas Item XIX taperes ponder XIII ℔ et dimid. Item II torches ponder XX ℔ Item XII ℔ cere et dimid. Item de candelis de cera ponder VI ℔ Item I ℔ de frank et ſence Item I lagenam olei Item IX pondera de plumbo

(Vide de ſtauro in tergo) et in tergo ſcribuntur hæc, "II vacce I ſus IIII hoggett et IIII porcell"

NUMBER

NUMBER V.

(N. 381.)

A PAPER *conteyning the value of the* MANORS *and* LANDS *pertayning to the* PRIORIE *of* SELBORNE. iv. Edw. 3. *With a note of charges yſſuing out of it.*

SELEBORNE PRIORATUS.

SUMMA totalis valoris maneriorum terrarum tenementorum et premiſſorum ejuſdem Prioratus in ffeſto S^ti. Michaelis Archang. anno ſecundo Regis Edvardi 4^ti. ut patet Rotul. de valoribus liberat.

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IIII VI li. (i. e. LXXXVI li.) XS. VI d.

Inde in redditibus reſolutis domino pape domino Archiepiſcopo et in diverſis ffeodis certis perſonis conceſſis ac aliis annualibus repriſis in eiſdem Rotul. de valoribus annotatis per annum XIIII li. XIX s. V d.

Et remanet de claro valore LXXI li. X s. VIII d.

Videlicet Aſſignantur pro

Quatuor canonicis et quatuor ffamulis deo et eccleſie ibid. ſervientibus pro eorum vadiis veſtur. et diet. ut patet per bill inde fact. per annum XXX li.

Diverſis creditoribus pro eorum debitis perſolvendis ut patet per parcell inde fact. XV li. XV s. IIII d.

Reparacionibus Eccleſiarum domorum murorum et clauſurarum ejuſdem Prioratus per annum XV li. XV s. IIII d.

Annua pencione Domini Prioris ei aſſignata per annum quouſque remanet X li.

SELEBORNE

SELBORNE PRIORATUS.

Modo ſequitur de Reformatione premiſſorum.

Redditus omn. firmis et Pencionibus.

Summa total. valorum ibid. miſis et deſperatis inde deductis prout patet per declaracionem Dñi Petri Prioris de Seleborne ad man. Dñi noſtri Wynton apud Palacium ſuum de Wolſley preſentat. per ipſum ultimo die ffebr. Ann. Domini MCCCCLXII. et penes ipſum remanet	LXXI li. X s. VIII d. unde per ipſum Dnum noſtrum Wynton aſſignantur in fforma ſequente videlicet.

Aſſignantur ut ſupra

Pro quatuor canonicis et quatuor ffamulis deo et eccleſie ibid. ſervientibus pro eorum Diet. vadiis et veſtur. ut patet per bill̄ inde fact.	XXX li.
Pro annua pencione Prioris quouſque *remanet.*	X li.
Pro diverſis creditoribus pro eorum debitis perſolvendis ut patet per bill̄ inde fact.	XV li. XV s. IIII d. per II annos ad XXXI li. X s. VIII d. ultra LV li. XIIII d. de vendit. ſtauri.
Pro diverſis reparacionibus eccleſiarum domorum murorum et clauſurarum ut patet per bill̄.	XV li. XV s. IIII d. per II annos ad XXXI li. X s. VIII d. Summa total. valoris pro debitis et reparacionibus aſſignat. cum LV li. XIIII d. de vendit. Stauri ut ſupra CXVIII li. II s. VI d.

Debita que debentur ibid. per diverſos tenentes et ffirmarios ad feſtum S^ti. Michaelis anno tertio Regis Edvardi 4^ti. videlicet.

Abbas de Derford de ffeod ffirme ſua ad IX li. VI s. VIII d. per annum a retro	XX li. VII s. XI d.
Thomas Perkyns armig. ffirmarius Rectorie de Eſtworlam pro uno anno finiente ad ffeſtum S^ti. Mich. anno II. Regis Edvardi 4^ti.	LX s.
Johannes Shalmere ball. de Selborne debet	LXXV s.
Ricardus Cawry debet de eodem anno	VI s.
Summa	XXVII li. VIII s. XI d.
Thomas Perkyns armig. debet de ffirme ſua predicta ad feſtum S^ti. Mich. ann. VII et ultra feod. ſuum ad XX s. per annum	VII li. VI s VIII d.
Thomas luſſher debet pro ffirme ſua ad XL s. per annum cum feod. ſuis ad XX s. per annum	C. s.
Hugo Pakenham debet de reddit. ſuo ad XX s. per ann.	C. s.
Abbas de Derford debet de feod ffirme ſua ultra XX li. VII s. XI d. ut ſupra pro annis III. IIII. et V. Regis Edvardi	XXVIII li.
Walterus Berlond ffirmarius de *Shene* debet	IX li. V s. IId.
Henr. Shafter ffirmarius *ffeod* de Baſynſtoke	XII li. IIII d.
Henr. lode nuper ffirmarius manerii de *Chede* debet	XX li.
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LIST OF THE PLATES

TO THE

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FROM THE

DRAWINGS OF S. H. GRIMM.

I. North-caſt view of SELBORNE, from the Short Lythe, to front the Title.

II. The HERMITAGE. Vignette in the Title to the Natural Hiſtory.

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ERRATA in the HISTORY of SELBORNE.

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11	13	for *ſcences* read *ſcenes*.
31	15	for *teems* read *teams*.
91	7	dele comma, and for *or* read *of*.
115	21	for *plantive* read *plaintive*.
163	22	for *dilation* read *dilatation*.
197	13	for *effuſus* read *conglomeratus*.
228	7	for *nurtered* read *nurtured*.
234	14	for *ſetter-worth* read *ſetter-wort*.
235	8	for *blea-berries* read *bil-berries*.
237	2	after *inceſſus* dele colon, and inſert it after *eſt*.
237	13	over *vera* dele A
240	7	for *winded* read *winged*.
246	21	for *Wordleham* read *Ward le ham*, & paſſim.
258	2	for *freſh-mowed* read freſh-*moved*.
280	23	for *peak-noſed* read *peaked-noſed*.
309	8	for *Woolmer* read *Wolmer*, & paſſim.
352	12	for *eſteemed* read *deemed*.
423	18	for *founded* read *found*.